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75 Refugees Reportedly Die in Raid

NATO Says Its Pilots Hit Military Convoy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELGRADE — The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that at least 75 people were killed and 25 wounded in NATO air raids on two columns of refugees in western Kosovo.

NATO military sources conceded that alliance warplanes had targeted and attacked military vehicles on a road in western Kosovo, but they would not confirm Serbian media reports that dozens of civilians had been killed in the bombings.

If the account were true, it would mark by far the largest single loss of civilian life reported during the three-week-old NATO bombing campaign.

The Serb-run Media Center in the Kosovo capital of Pristina said two separate refugee convoys were bombed, most of them made up of women, children and elderly ethnic Albanians who were being escorted by Serbian police toward the border.

The reported attacks came the day after NATO admitted mistakenly bombing a train as it crossed a bridge at Grdelicka Klisura, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Belgrade, an attack that the BETA press agency said Wednesday had killed 10 people, wounded 16 and left 17 missing.

The Pentagon said later Wednesday that Serbian forces escorting a convoy of Kosovo refugees may have attacked and killed some of the civilians after military vehicles in the convoy were hit in a NATO air strike.

Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, said General Wesley Clark, the top NATO commander, had received "verbal reports of the possibility" that, after military vehicles in the refugee convoy were hit, "military people got out" and "began to attack civilians in the middle of the convoy."

A NATO spokesman, Jamie Shea, acknowledged that "military vehicles" had been a target Wednesday afternoon on the Prizren-Djakovica road in western Kosovo.



A man passing bodies near the village of Mejia where the Serbs reported 64 people were killed.

He added that NATO was trying to establish whether the convoy had been hit by mistake. "We are processing the battle damage assessment," he said.

"I would not jump to any conclusions until we've

had a chance to make an assessment," he said. "Reserve judgment until we have the facts."

Refugees fleeing Kosovo are reporting to relief workers that Yugoslav helicopters and airplanes have been attacking refugee convoys in the Serbian

See CONVOY, Page 4

EU Leaders Back UN Cease-Fire Plan For Serb Pullback

Diplomatic Efforts by Allies Over Kosovo Begin to Surface

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Diplomatic maneuvering among the allies in the Kosovo conflict broke into public view for the first time Wednesday when a number of proposals surfaced at an EU summit meeting in Brussels for ending the war and also for assuring postwar stability in the shattered province and across the territories of the former Federation of Yugoslavia.

The European Union leaders backed a United Nations peace initiative calling for a suspension of NATO air raids if Belgrade acted immediately to halt the violence in Kosovo, withdraw all its forces, allow an international security force to deploy in the province and permit the Kosovo refugees to go home.

After meeting with Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, EU leaders said that they hoped to see this initiative become a Security Council resolution that would win the approval of Russia.

NATO, not the Security Council or the European Union, launched and controls the action against the forces of President Slobodan Milosevic, but Britain and France, which are members of all three organizations, want to see Western diplomacy ease the isolation Russia feels in the conflict.

If Belgrade agreed to the UN proposal, which appeared to largely overlap NATO's five demands for an end to hostilities, the European allies would probably get the United States to agree — even though Washington would be loath to see too much UN influence in a settlement.

The Clinton administration insists that NATO must be free to act without any risk of paralysis caused by a UN role, but the European allies — who agreed on the Kosovo offensive without a Security Council mandate because of risk of a Russian veto — want to restore a UN role and benefit from its international legitimacy in a settlement.

For the moment, allied governments were orchestrating their diplomacy carefully, taking individual positions catering to their domestic opinion but concentrating on avoiding any hint of a crack in their solid front as NATO pressed an escalating military offensive to defeat Mr. Milosevic's forces in Kosovo.

A German plan, offering a 24-hour cease-fire in NATO air strikes if Serbian forces started withdrawing from Kosovo, received ginger treatment from the allies, with a Clinton administration spokesman saying merely that it was "constructive."

President Jacques Chirac of France reportedly suggested an EU mandate for postwar Kosovo, putting a European twist on an old term for international control of a territory pending a decision on whether it should be independent or attached to another nation.

The French suggestion would fit a situation in which Kosovo would not revert to the control of a Serbia still controlled by President Milosevic.

All the allied governments have started formulating plans for a postwar recovery plan, including economic aid, that would end the series of conflicts that have engulfed Bosnia and Kosovo — and could endanger the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and also Albania, diplomats said.

The NATO alliance said its warplanes and missiles struck across Kosovo and Serbia on Wednesday, hitting bridges, fuel depots, communications lines and command centers.

The NATO civilian spokesman, Jamie Shea, said the allies were steadily adding firepower, bringing in hundreds of planes from the United States, Canada, France and Italy.

"With more than 1,000 aircraft on stream very soon we will be able to maintain a continuous operation to tighten the screw on Serb forces in Kosovo," he said.

Some of the strongest hints yet surfaced in Washington and London that allied ground troops might be used once Serbian resistance had been broken by air strikes.

The British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, told Parliament on Wednesday: "There may be circumstances in which one could envisage an international protection force going in without a formal treaty arrangement but with no resistance on the ground."

"There has to be evidence that the Serb forces are at least in the process of withdrawing," he said, "and there has to be a credible intention for them all to withdraw."

See KOSOVO, Page 4

Starr Urges End To His Own Job



Kenneth Starr on the same day he testified before Congress, urging lawmakers not to reauthorize the independent counsel statute. Page 3.

AGENDA

Pakistan Matches India Missile Test

Three days after India launched a nuclear-capable missile, Pakistan responded Wednesday by firing off a new and improved version of its own ballistic missile from a testing range near the city of Jhelum in the northern part of the country.

The Ghauri-2 missile, named after a 12th-century Muslim invader who conquered parts of northern India, flew about 1,120 kilometers (700 miles). Page 2.

India Government Loses Its Majority

The government of India lost its majority in Parliament on Wednesday and faced an immediate vote of confidence on Thursday that could remove it from office. The government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee scrambled late into the night to secure enough votes to survive. Page 10.

Children of Chaos in Refugee Camp

For a Little Girl With No Name, Home Is Now Tent No. 389

By David Finkel
Washington Post Service

KUKES, Albania — Somehow, she made it to the border. Somehow she made it along the winding mountain roads to the steps of a mosque at the edge of a field in the northern Albanian town of Kukes — and that's where whoever brought her here abandoned her.

They don't know her name, they think it starts with a J, because that's a sound she makes from time to time.

They don't know her age, but they think she is between 1½ and 2, a range they arrived at by getting her to trust them enough to open her mouth so they could count her teeth.

They think she was lying on a blanket at the base of the steps for perhaps six

hours, until a woman approached her, saw she was filthy, shoeless and sockless, and realized after asking around that she had been abandoned. Not knowing what else to do, the woman took the girl to live with her.

That happened Friday. Now she is living in a tent with a family she does not know, one of more than 100,000 refugees in the miserable place that is Kukes, all of them in various stages of the chaos of displacement. Most of them are children.

The lucky ones are living in tents that smell of damp canvas, and the luckier ones are living in old, crowded warehouses that smell of hundreds of shoes. The unlucky ones — numbering in the thousands — are living in carts that are still attached to the tractors that pulled

them here from the burning interior of Kosovo.

The abandoned toddler is in a tent toward the end of a row that comes up against a stone wall topped by barbed wire. The number on the tent is 389, and the people inside include Resjje Mesin, 32, the woman who found the girl. Shyqyri, her husband, 38; and their three children, and Shyqyri's brother and sister-in-law and their children. They are 15 people in all.

Resjje and Shyqyri intend to raise the little girl as their own.

By Tuesday, she is eating and sleeping, and sometimes smiling, but Resjje says that the girl has diarrhea, and they don't have enough clothing for her and

See KIDS, Page 4

Anwar's Sentencing Sets Off Rioting

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

KUALA LUMPUR — Anwar Ibrahim, the dismissed deputy prime minister of Malaysia, was found guilty of corruption and sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison in a verdict that turned this orderly city into a cauldron of anti-government riots.

Declaring that his conduct "strikes at the very core of the administrative system," Judge Augustine Paul found Mr. Anwar guilty of all four charges that he abused his power as Malaysia's No. 2 official. The judge even refused to give Mr. Anwar credit for time he had served in jail since his arrest last September.

Lawyers for Mr. Anwar, 51, appealed the verdict. But for now, supporters of the man who was groomed to lead the country say that he is the victim of a political feud that has generated sharp

criticism of Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad.

As news of the verdict spread through Kuala Lumpur — ending a trial that has been a riveting daily event for seven months — several thousand people took to the streets in a show of outrage, chanting anti-Mahathir slogans and waving placards proclaiming "The people are the judge."

The crowd was repulsed by water cannon on trucks and hundreds of Malaysian riot police officers wielding rattan sticks. But it quickly regrouped and much of the city was paralyzed as the police pursued the demonstrators through the streets of Kuala Lumpur's historic district.

As trucks sprayed the crowd with chemical-laced water, the protesters hurled rocks and bottles at the police, lit bonfires on major streets and chanted *Reformasi!* — the slogan that originated

in Indonesia and now symbolizes the reform movement here as well.

By nightfall, the mayhem seemed to have died down. The clashes were the worst in months, with the police firing multiple rounds of tear gas at small pockets of Anwar supporters and beating a human rights activist who tried to block the path of a water-cannon truck. Police officials said that 18 people had been arrested, most at a mosque near the courthouse.

"We are very angry and upset," said Shidi Amin, a 38-year-old businessman, as he watched protesters flee in the path of advancing riot police near the main post office.

"They've tried to kill Anwar as a political leader," he charged. "But the people will not forget about him, even if he is in jail."

See ANWAR, Page 10

6 Algerians Quit the Race

All but One of Presidential Candidates Cry Foul

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

ALGIERS — Six of the seven candidates running for president of Algeria abruptly withdrew Wednesday from the Thursday election, charging "persistent" fraud in a process fomented by the military-backed government and even some of its critics as a historic step toward democratic pluralism.

The summing eleven-hour withdrawal by all the candidates except Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the front-runner and unofficial choice of the Algerian military and political elites, was bound to discredit the results of the balloting Thursday and render Mr. Bouteflika's expected victory hollow at best.

In a televised address Wednesday night, the outgoing president, Liamine Zeroual, said the election would go forth as scheduled despite the withdrawals.

"I have decided that the electoral process will be taken to its conclusion," Mr. Zeroual said, adding that the six candidates who pulled out had taken a "dangerous decision."

The six candidates made common cause in refusing pre-emptively to recognize the results of the election because, they said in a collective declaration Wednesday, commitments for free and transparent elections made by Mr. Zeroual and the Algerian Army had been violated.

"We note the persistence of the government in denying citizens their right to decide their future and to choose their president, and we hold it responsible for what follows," the candidates said in a statement that was read at a boisterous news conference to the cheers of their partisans.

See ALGERIA, Page 10

China Gets Boost on Trade

Clinton Asks Zhu to Restart WTO Negotiations

By Katherine Q. Seelye
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — After coming under strong criticism that he had backed away from a trade deal with China because of domestic politics, President Bill Clinton has called on China's prime minister to restart the negotiations in Beijing this month aimed at admitting China to the World Trade Organization.

The White House announced the effort Tuesday as Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, who has complained repeatedly about the failure to reach a deal during his tour of the United States, was visiting New York and the Boston area before heading to Canada. Mr. Zhu had spent much of his time lobbying business executives about the benefits of an accord on trade.

Mr. Zhu said later he had told Mr. Clinton during their phone call that "I feel very confident that in the near future

we will see the successful conclusion of negotiations that are favorable to both sides — but especially to the U.S."

"Some observers think we're 95 percent there," Mr. Zhu said. "I think we're 99 percent there. We'll see conclusion of an agreement."

[A World Trade Organization agreement may be reached within two or three months, Mr. Zhu told Cable News Network, according to Bloomberg News. "Of course I would rather see it in another two weeks' time," he said.]

Mr. Clinton's phone call to the Chinese leader followed a meeting Monday in which nearly two dozen business executives lobbied the White House to emphasize the importance of the deal to American companies.

"They were happy with the progress we made but were worried that the deal

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Newsstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD Mails
Cyprus	C £ 1.00 Nigeria
Denmark	17 DK Kr
Finland	12.00 FM Oels
Gibraltar	C 0.65 Rep. Ireland
Greece	12.00 GR
Great Britain	£1.00 Saudi Arabia
Egypt	£E 5.50 S. Africa
Jordan	1.250 JD U.A.E.
Kenya	K SH 160 U.S. (Eur.)
Kuwait	700 Fls Zimbabw



EUROPE/INTERNATIONAL

Responding to India, Pakistan Tests Missile of Its Own

By Celia A. Dugger
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — Three days after India launched a nuclear-capable missile, Pakistan responded Wednesday by firing off a new and improved version of its own ballistic missile from a testing range near the city of Jhelum in the northern part of the country.

The Ghauri-2 missile, named after a 12th-century Muslim invader who conquered parts of northern India, flew about 1,120 kilometers (700 miles) in 12 minutes to land in the sparsely populated southwestern province of Baluchistan on the Arabian Sea coast.

A government statement said the missile "can be tipped with any type of warhead."

The official Pakistani press agency said the Ghauri-2 might be tested a second time to its full range of 2,320 kilometers with a landing in the sea.

India's Agni-2 missile, which is named with the Sanskrit word for fire, traveled 2,010 kilometers Sunday before it splashed into the Bay of Bengal, officials here said.

Indian officials have repeatedly and publicly stated their intention to test the intermediate-range missiles they say are needed for a credible nuclear deterrent, particularly against their other nuclear-armed neighbor, China. But Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan said Tuesday that India was responsible for intensifying the arms race with its latest missile test.

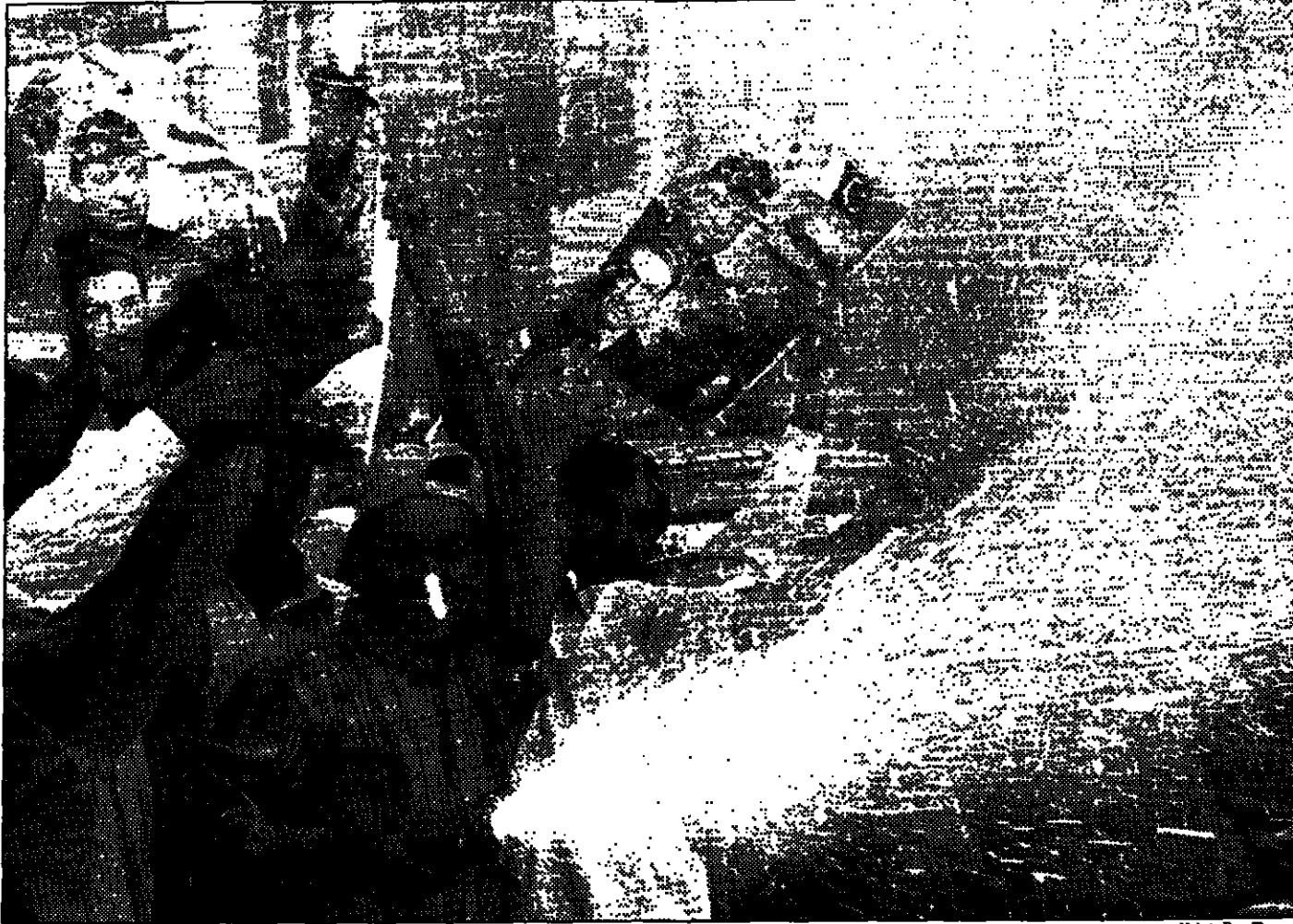
On Wednesday, he congratulated the Pakistanis on the successful test of the Ghauri.

The Pakistani Army chief of staff, General Pervez Musharraf, told reporters in Karachi on Monday, "We have developed Ghauri, which is a most effective missile and better than that of Agni. India has the ambition to reach the world, but we have the capability to reach India."

The two nations' exchange of missile tests echoed the nuclear tests they conducted 11 months ago. India, taking the lead, and Pakistan became the newest nuclear powers last May when they detonated nuclear devices underground.

In recent months, Mr. Sharif and the Indian prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, have sought to better relations between their nations, which have fought three wars in the past 51 years.

At a February meeting in Lahore, the two men agreed that they would continue talking



Pakistanis celebrating the Wednesday missile test by their country by exploding fireworks in a street of Lahore.

about the core issues that divided India and Pakistan.

They promised to give each other advance notice before any further missile tests, a tacit recognition that more tests were likely. In this case, India told Pakistan about its plans to test the Agni two days in advance, while Pakistan notified India on Tuesday of its intentions to test a missile.

Officials at the U.S. embassies in New Delhi and Islamabad said Washington was unhappy that India and Pakistan had taken another step toward developing their nuclear

arsenals. "We hope that this will not mean the end of the process started at Lahore, and it probably won't," an official at the embassy in New Delhi said. "What happens to the Indian government now is probably more important in determining what happens next than the testing."

The negotiations between Mr. Sharif and Mr. Vajpayee seemed less likely to be disrupted by the missile tests than by a political crisis that threatened to topple the Hindu nationalist-led coalition government in India that Mr. Vajpayee heads.

The Indian government lost its parliamentary majority Wednesday when its largest coalition partner withdrew its support. If Mr. Vajpayee's coalition loses its majority in the lower house, Mr. Vajpayee himself will be out of power. It is not clear who would replace him.

Mr. Vajpayee thus made the decision to launch the Agni as his year-old government faced what was clearly the gravest threat yet to its survival, and he declared on Wednesday that the missile test had assured India's national security.

"The entire process of achieving a minimum deterrent has been completed," he said.

Pakistan's decision to respond with one test firing, and possibly a second missile shot, was motivated more by the need to show that it could stand up to its bigger and more powerful neighbor than by any strategic or technical need to test its missiles, nuclear analysts said.

Last May, it successfully tested a Ghauri missile with the potential to strike deep into India.

"Last year, India did five nuclear tests, and Pakistan did six," said George Perkovich, a nuclear analyst and author of a soon-to-be-published history of India's nuclear-weapons program.

"This year, India tests one missile, Pakistan may test two," Mr. Perkovich said. "As the smaller state, you have to show you have great resolve. You'll match and see it one."

BRIEFLY

Explosives Seized in Poland

WARSAW — Polish police announced Wednesday the seizure of 175 kilograms (385 pounds) of explosives, including enough Semtex to make 700 bombs, a police spokesman said. Four people were arrested.

The explosives, hidden in cases that had been buried on a farm near Sandomierz, were intended for criminal organizations around the country, the spokesman said.

Criminals have resorted increasingly to bomb attacks to settle accounts among rival groups or to extort money, the police said. (AFP)

Romanians Dislike Free Market

BUCHAREST — Nearly 10 years after communism was ousted from their country, many Romanians maintain they would be better off with one party and a mostly state-controlled economy, a poll showed Wednesday.

Seventy-one percent of the people interviewed said they "only slightly" agreed with a market economy. Seventy-six percent said Romanians' main priority should be to increase living standards and reduce unemployment and inflation.

A couple of years ago, most respondents wanted Romania to join NATO and the European Union. According to the poll, just 6 percent consider those issues to be priorities. (AP)

Venezuelan Seeks End of Court

CARACAS — President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela said it was necessary not only to dissolve Congress, but also the Supreme Court — raising the stakes in his confrontation with the other two branches of government.

Appearing on television late Tuesday, the president said a constituent assembly rewriting the constitution should shut down Congress and the courts and "from there sow the seeds of a new nation."

Earlier in the day, protesters blocked the entrance to Congress and attacked the leader of Venezuela's lower house as he tried to leave the building. (AP)

For the Record

Eight ancient Roman ships discovered near Pisa will be unearthed in June, the archaeologist in charge of the dig said Wednesday. (AP)

Abdel Basset Ali Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, the two Libyans accused of the 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, were ordered to stand trial during a final preliminary court hearing Wednesday at Camp Zeist, the Netherlands. (Reuters)

The United States signed a \$37 million agreement Wednesday to assist the Kenyan victims of the bomb attack last year on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. (Reuters)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reputation for television savvy was shaken, many commentators said Wednesday, by his lackluster performance in a debate with Yitzhak Mordechai of the Center Party. (AFP)

President Nelson Mandela declared formally on Wednesday in Pretoria that June 2 will be the date for the election to end his leadership of South Africa. (Reuters)

There is to be no inquiry into the assassination of President Ibrahim Bero Mainassara of Niger, a spokesman for the junta declared. "His death really was accidental," Captain Djibrila Hima Hamidou told a news conference Tuesday in Niamey, the capital. (AFP)

Marxist rebels in Colombia have freed six hostages from among the 46 passengers and crew members they seized after hijacking a commercial airliner. (Reuters)

2 Convicted in Theft of TWA Crash Material

New York Times Service

UNIONDALE, New York — A federal jury convicted a Virginia couple of conspiring to steal evidence from the wreckage of Trans World Airlines Flight 800 to back up their theory that the jetliner was hit by an errant Navy missile.

The defendants, James Sanders, the author of a 1997 book promoting the theory, and his wife, Elizabeth, a former TWA flight-attendant instructor, appeared stunned Tuesday when the jury delivered its verdict after less than two hours of deliberation.

The two were found guilty of conspiracy, as well as aiding and abetting in the theft of two small strips of passenger-seat fabric that con-

tained a reddish-orange residue that they said was left by a missile. They each face as much as 10 years in prison when sentenced on July 9, but the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting the case, David Pirofsky, said that under sentencing guidelines, they would probably be sentenced to far less time.

As the couple left U.S. District Court late Tuesday, Mr. Sanders said, "We were surprised by the verdict and that the jury rendered it so quickly. It can't help but send a strong and obvious message to journalists seeking to tell the truth."

Mrs. Sanders, who clutched her husband's hand, said only, "We did nothing wrong."

They remain free, each on \$50,000 bail.

In his book, "The Downing of TWA Flight 800," Mr. Sanders contended that tests indicated the reddish-orange substance on the seat fabric was residue from missile exhaust, evidence that the plane had been accidentally fired upon when it exploded only 12 minutes after taking off from Kennedy International Airport on July 17, 1996. The government has yet to determine the cause of the crash, but has rejected the missile theory and says its tests show that the residue is fabric glue.

The couple was charged under a law approved by Congress in 1996, after the ValuJet crash in Florida, that makes it illegal to remove, conceal or withhold parts of a civilian aircraft involved in an accident.

Debate on Ousting Yeltsin Set for May

Russia Parliament Approves One-Month Delay in Session on Impeachment

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — The lower house of the Russian Parliament voted Wednesday, during a quarrelsome session, to postpone an impeachment debate against President Boris Yeltsin.

The decision to freeze the process until May 13-15 was reached on a vote of 241 to 63. It came before lawmakers had even agreed to cancel a session set for Thursday during which the five-count hearing was to begin.

Mr. Yeltsin's Communist foes in Parliament are leading the call for his ouster, but they do not want an impeachment vote until they can amend the rules and hold an open ballot. The Communist leaders fear that if the ballot is secret — as stipulated under current rules — some party members may defect and vote against impeachment.

The Duma's delays have angered Mr. Yeltsin, who has accused his opponents of trying to keep him under constant political attack by dragging out the process. He urged lawmakers to hold the debate Thursday or drop the motion altogether.

The presidential spokesman, Dmitri

Yakushkin, quickly denounced the move. "All the fuss off the last few days and even hours, all these actions show that the motion has been and remains purely political," Mr. Yakushkin said on NTV television.

A committee spent months formulating the charges against Mr. Yeltsin. The impeachment motion, which requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of Parliament and approval by the two highest Russian courts, is considered likely to fail, as have previous attempts.

Still, Mr. Yeltsin's influence has slipped because of his frequent illnesses and Russia's continuing economic crisis. The motion is expected to have a slightly better chance than before.

A committee charged Mr. Yeltsin with instigating the 1991 Soviet collapse, improperly using force against hard-line lawmakers in 1993, launching the disastrous offensive against rebel Chechnya, bringing the nation's military to ruin and waging virtual "genocide" against the people by pursuing economic policies that impoverished much of the country.

Berezovsky Warrant Annulled

Russia moved Wednesday to withdraw an arrest warrant for the tycoon Boris Berezovsky, just two weeks after charging the Kremlin insider with bilking hundreds of millions of dollars from the Aeroflot state airline, Agence France-Presse reported from Moscow.

The decision capped a mystifying month of politics that included a declaration by the Russian interior minister that he would not follow orders to arrest Mr. Berezovsky should the tycoon return to Moscow from abroad.

The Russian chief prosecutor, meanwhile, is himself still facing criminal corruption charges after a period of mudslinging that included the national broadcast of a tape purporting to show him in bed with two prostitutes.

Mr. Berezovsky had been accused of illegal business activities and of misusing his office while holding a series of senior government posts.

He and another top Aeroflot executive were charged with transferring most of Aeroflot's hard-currency profits to a fake company in Switzerland.



Russian workers in St. Petersburg giving a spring cleaning to street lights near the historic Smolny Cathedral.

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	72	52	72	52	72	52
Belgium	68	48	68	48	68	48
France	68	48	68	48	68	48
Germany	68	48	68	48	68	48
Italy	68	48	68	48	68	48
Spain	68	48	68	48	68	48
U.K.	68	48	68	48	68	48
U.S.S.R.	68	48	68	48	68	48
Sweden	68	48	68	48	68	48
Norway	68	48	68	48	68	48
Finland	68	48	68	48	68	48
Denmark	68	48	68	48	68	48
Poland	68	48	68	48	68	48
Czech Rep.	68	48	68	48	68	48
Slovak Rep.	68	48	68	48	68	48
Hungary	68	48	68	48	68	48
Romania	68	48	68	48	68	48
Bulgaria	68	48	68	48	68	48
Greece	68	48	68	48	68	48
Turkey	68	48	68	48	68	48
Israel	68	48	68	48	68	48
Japan	68	48	68	48	68	48
China	68	48	68	48	68	48
India	68	48	68	48	68	48
Australia	68	48	68	48	68	48
New Zealand	68	48	68	48	68	48

North America	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Alaska	68	48	68	48	68	48
Canada	68	48	68	48	68	48
U.S.	68	48	68	48	68	48
Mexico	68	48	68	48	68	48
Central America	68	48	68	48	68	48
South America	68	48	68	48	68	48
Caribbean	68	48	68	48	68	48
Africa	68	48	68	48	68	48
Asia	68	48	68	48	68	48
Oceania	68	48	68	48	68	48

Asia	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	72	52	72	52	72	52
Belgium	68	48	68	48	68	48
France	68	48	68	48	68	48
Germany	68	48	68	48	68	48
Italy	68	48	68	48	68	48
Spain	68	48	68	48	68	48
U.K.	68	48	68	48	68	48
U.S.S.R.	68	48	68	48	68	48
Sweden	68	48	68	48	68	48
Norway	68	48	68	48	68	48
Finland	68	48	68	48	68	48
Denmark	68	48	68	48	68	48
Poland	68	48	68	48	68	48
Czech Rep.	68	48	68	48	68	48
Slovak Rep.	68	48	68	48	68	48
Hungary	68	48	68	48	68	48
Romania	68	48	68	48	68	48
Bulgaria	68	48	68	48	68	48
Greece	68	48	68	48	68	48
Turkey	68	48	68	48	68	48
Israel	68	48	68	48	68	48
Japan	68	48	68	48	68	48
China	68	48	68	48	68	48
India	68	48	68	48	68	48
Australia	68	48	68	48	68	48
New Zealand	68	48	68	48	68	48

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TRAVEL UPDATE
Museum Honors Japanese Admiral
TOKYO (AP) — A wing from a bomber, an English Bible and other personal artifacts are among the items on display at a museum opening Sunday that is dedicated to the Japanese admiral who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.
Isoroku Yamamoto opposed Japan's alliance with Italy and Germany, fearing war with the United States, but once he decided there was no alternative, he masterminded the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into World War II. U.S. participation in the war then resulted in Japan's defeat. The museum in Nagasaki, Mr. Yamamoto's hometown, also will display the admiral's calligraphy lamenting the war.
A Miami man suspected of leading an organized gang that preyed on foreign tourists in the early 1990s has been sentenced to prison. A district judge sentenced David Harrell, 31, to 235 months behind bars. (Reuters)

Endowment Fund for Perpetual World Peace
www.globaladministration.com

To Our Readers
The Wednesday editions of the Herald Tribune were late or unavailable in some parts of Europe, the United States and in Indonesia because of transmission problems. We regret the inconvenience.

THE AMERICAS

Starr Urges End to Independent Counsel Statute, Calling It Flawed

By Neil A. Lewis
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Kenneth Starr, who came to embody the independent counsel law as he pursued a variety of allegations about President Bill Clinton for almost five years, said Wednesday that he now believes the United States would be better off if the law were allowed to expire.

"The statute should not be reauthorized," Mr. Starr said bluntly in testimony before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, which is considering what to do about the law that provides for the appointment of independent counsels like Mr. Starr. The statute is set to expire at the end of June.

Instead, Mr. Starr argued, the authority to investigate politically sensitive cases involving senior administration officials should be returned to the Justice Department and the attorney general — with Congress and the press keeping watch.

He said in his testimony that the law has many serious flaws and, most important, has not achieved its main purpose, which is to provide the public with a sense that investigations of

figures like the president are free from partisanship.

Referring to his own experience, Mr. Starr lamented that his investigation was criticized as too partisan, that he was portrayed as a Republican out to get a Democratic president and that the public did not, in the end, have great confidence in what he was doing.

"The assaults took a toll," he said. "A duly authorized federal law-enforcement investigation came to be characterized as yet another political game. Law became politics by other means." As a result, he said, "the statutory mechanism intended to enhance confidence in law enforcement thus had the effect of weakening it."

The independent counsel law was enacted after the Watergate scandal of the early 1970s, which produced a wide consensus that the nation's chief law-enforcement officer, the attorney general, had an inherent conflict in investigating the president or fellow cabinet officers.

But Mr. Starr argued that the opposite has occurred. Rather than assuring that the investigation is not too soft because it is conducted by a political associate, the law opens the door for

independent counsels to be criticized as overly eager to successfully prosecute someone.

"Because the independent counsel is vulnerable to partisan attack, the investigation is likely to be seen as political," Mr. Starr said. He has been ferociously criticized by supporters of Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

At the same time, Mr. Starr has faced widespread criticism from those who argued that his efforts were not partisan but were, nonetheless, ill-considered and frequently lacking any sense of proportion.

Mr. Starr's statement was defensive as well over the criticism of the expanding scope of his investigation, which began with questions about Whitewater, a land deal in Arkansas in which the Clintons invested before they came to the White House.

The inquiry eventually included such unconnected topics as the dismissal of employees in the White House travel office, the improper collection of confidential FBI files on some Republicans in the Clinton White House and, most famously, the president's intimate relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Each time, Mr. Starr

received an expansion of his original jurisdiction, which had been to investigate only the Whitewater matter.

In his testimony, Mr. Starr said that "the number of expansions is unique and it may have fed the misconception that we were investigating individuals rather than crime."

"Let me make clear: That was not the case," he argued in his statement that he did not seek to investigate some of those subjects but had them pressed on him by the Justice Department.

But investigating Ms. Lewinsky's relations with the president, the area that attracted the greatest criticism, was something Mr. Starr sought.

He also criticized the independent counsel statute, which he said obliged him to report to Congress any offenses by the president that might have been worthy of impeachment.

His referral to Congress charged that Mr. Clinton had committed several impeachable offenses, including perjury and obstruction of justice. The report led to a months-long ordeal during which the House voted to impeach the president, but the Senate voted to acquit him.

For Mr. Starr's critics, his investigation of the

Lewinsky matter and his advocacy of impeachment were the principal examples of his excessive zeal.

In his prepared testimony, Mr. Starr defended himself, saying that the statute compelled him to offer a detailed explanation of the president's alleged offenses.

"We could have shipped the raw evidence with nothing more last fall," he said. But he said he believed he had to bring some "order and coherence to the information."

■ Starr's Comments Are a Surprise

Mr. Starr's comments surprised some observers who have watched him pursue the president aggressively for five years.

"If you live long enough, you'll experience everything," Senator Robert Torricelli, Democrat of New Jersey and Governmental Affairs Committee member, said after listening to Mr. Starr.

Senator Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, who is not a Governmental Affairs member, issued a statement declaring Mr. Starr's remarks "like Jack the Ripper calling for more neighborhood patrols because of the surge in victims."

Judge Scolds Kevorkian

Sentencing Him to 10 to 25 Years in Prison, She Says Lawlessness Was the Trial's Issue

By Dirk Johnson
New York Times Service

PONTIAC, Michigan — The Michigan judge who sentenced Dr. Jack Kevorkian to 10 to 25 years in prison said his flouting of the law had given prosecutors and the courts no choice but to remove him from society.

"This trial was not about the political or moral correctness of euthanasia," Judge Jessica Cooper of Oakland County Circuit Court said. "It was about you, sir. It was about lawlessness."

The penalty was imposed Tuesday despite emotional courtroom pleas on Dr. Kevorkian's behalf from the widow and brother of the terminally ill man he was convicted of having killed. The 70-year-old defendant was also denied bail.

Referring to the "60 Minutes" television program that featured a videotape of Dr. Kevorkian administering the lethal injection that resulted in the charges, Judge Cooper said that the advocate of assisted suicide had "the audacity to go on national television, show the world what you did and dare the legal system to stop you. Well, sir, consider yourself stopped."

The courtroom outside the court was crowded with his foes, who burst into applause after the sentencing. Dr. Kevorkian smiled as he was led out by bailiffs. He had declined to speak in his defense.

A jury convicted him on March 26 of second-degree murder in the death of Thomas Youk, 52, an accountant who lived in suburban Detroit and suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease. His widow, Melody Youk, gave a statement to the court Tuesday that bitterly criticized prosecutors and cast Dr. Kevorkian as someone who had carried out the wishes of her husband.

Saying that she wished she had been able to speak at the trial, Mrs. Youk said that her husband "would be greatly distressed that the man who brought him peace at the end would now suffer on his account."

"My husband had come to the end of his life as he chose it," she said. "He was not depressed. He was not a victim."

But John Skrzynski, the prosecutor, said Dr. Kevorkian had used Mr. Youk as part of his effort to rally support for euthanasia and assisted suicide.



Dr. Jack Kevorkian being led away by deputies in Pontiac, Michigan, after he was sentenced in his murder conviction.

"The defendant chose to put us in this sad situation," he said. "This is not a case where the prosecutor went looking for Kevorkian."

The doctor, who plans to appeal, his lawyers say, must serve more than six years before he will be eligible for parole under Michigan guidelines.

Judge Cooper told Dr. Kevorkian that whatever his goals on euthanasia, he must follow the rules of a democratic society.

"We are a nation of laws," she said. "We have a civilized and nonviolent way of resolving conflict. You can criticize the law. You can gripe. You can lecture. You can petition the voters. But you may not take the law into your own hands."

This was the fifth time in a decade that prosecutors had tried Dr. Kevorkian in the deaths of seriously ill people. Three trials ended in acquittal and a fourth in a mistrial. In those cases, he was not charged with murder but with violating laws against assisted suicide.

But this trial, in which he insisted on defending himself, was different because prosecutors were able to use a videotape that Dr. Kevorkian made of himself injecting Mr. Youk with lethal chemicals in September. Dr. Kevorkian took the tape to the CBS News program "60 Minutes," which broadcast it in November along with an interview in which Dr. Kevorkian dared prosecutors to file charges against him.

Clinton Unlikely to Appeal Judge's Contempt Finding

His Advisers See Relatively Mild Penalty as Acceptable

By Roberto Suro and John F. Harris
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton does not plan to challenge a federal judge's order finding him in contempt of court for giving false testimony about his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, according to sources familiar with the advice he has received from his attorneys and advisers.

The contempt order issued Monday by Judge Susan Webber Wright of Arkansas strongly condemns Mr. Clinton's efforts to hide his affair with Ms. Lewinsky from lawyers pressing the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit, but it carries relatively light penalties.

Several advisers to Mr. Clinton are recommending that he accept the sanctions imposed by Judge Wright — which call for compensating Mrs. Jones and her lawyers for some expenses, and refers Mr. Clinton's conduct to Arkansas judicial authorities for a ruling on his fitness to practice law — as an acceptable price for bringing closure to a legal controversy that has haunted his presidency since 1994.

Although the prevailing assumption among Mr. Clinton's legal and political advisers is that he should not appeal, he has not been presented a final recommendation, sources said. Mr. Clinton's attorneys are still reviewing the judge's order, studying in particular whether accepting the sanctions now might somehow expose Mr. Clinton to increased legal jeopardy if Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, chooses to pursue a criminal perjury case against the president in the future. Mr. Clinton's lawyers said they could also change their minds and decide to challenge the order if Judge Wright ended up setting a prohibitively high figure for reimbursement of Mrs. Jones's legal team.

Nonetheless, the most likely option, according to White House sources, is that the White House will announce within several days that, while it does not agree with Judge Wright's conclusion that Mr. Clinton lied under oath, it has no plans to appeal.

Ever since he acknowledged his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, the president has maintained that he was misleading, but legally accurate, when he testified in his January 1998 deposition that he was never alone with the former White House intern and did not have a sexual relationship with her.

Joe Lockhart, the White House press secretary, said Tuesday, "I don't believe the president has changed his view" that he did not lie in the Jones case.

But Mr. Clinton's side long ago conceded that "reasonable people," as Charles Ruff, the White House counsel, told the House last December, might conclude that the president's testimony "crossed the line" from legally evasive to outright false.

Over the course of the past year, Mr. Clinton has apologized for many things; for his extramarital relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, for lying to the public for eight months about it and for the distraction the episode caused to the nation.

But he remains convinced, according to aides, that it was appropriate for him to try to avoid telling the Jones lawyers about his affair with Ms. Lewinsky by providing what he described last December as "difficult and ambiguous and unhelpful" answers.

Mr. Clinton's legal position is that he could deny having a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky because under his understanding of the definitions in the Jones case, having oral sex performed on him did not qualify as sex.

His position, according to aides, is that it was acceptable for him to mislead interrogators in a case he believed was illegitimate. As Mr. Clinton said when he first acknowledged his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky in a televised speech last August, "These questions were being asked in a politically inspired lawsuit."

Mr. Lockhart said the president had not, so far as he knew, changed his view on the acceptability of misleading the Jones attorneys in Judge Wright's presence last year.

But in her ruling Monday, Judge Wright made clear how strongly she disagreed with that view. She concluded that Mr. Clinton had willfully disregarded her orders that he reveal to the Jones lawyers any sexual contact or sexual propositions involving government employees.

Citing Mr. Clinton's denial of a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky in his deposition, Judge Wright said, "The record demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the president responded to plaintiff's questions by giving false, misleading and evasive answers that were designed to obstruct the judicial process."

In her order Monday, Judge Wright essentially warned Mr. Clinton that challenging her decision could produce a protracted legal ordeal. "The president is hereby put on notice that this court will take evidence at any future hearings — including if necessary testimony from witnesses — on all matters concerning the president's conduct in this lawsuit which may warrant a finding of civil contempt," she wrote.

Republican Hopefuls Lower Sights on Abortion

By Terry M. Neal and David Von Drehle
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — For the first time in two decades, most of the leading Republican presidential candidates are trying to push an abortion ban off the top of the party's agenda, removing from the political spotlight one of the most divisive issues of a generation.

In the past few weeks, prominent Republican candidates — including Governor George Bush of Texas, Elizabeth Dole, Senator John McCain of Arizona and former Vice President Dan Quayle — have said the party should focus on other issues because America is not ready for a ban on abortion.

In contrast to 1996, when religious and social conservatives lashed out at Bob Dole's desire to tone down the party's platform on abortion, many anti-abortion leaders appear willing to play down a polarizing issue that has driven away many independent and suburban voters and perpetuated the party's image of intolerance.

Party polls have shown that many of these swing voters, holding conflicting views on abortion, perceived Republicans to be inflexible. By dropping the banner of a constitutional ban

on abortions and emphasizing the far more limited ban on a late-term procedure that opponents call "partial-birth" abortion, Republican strategists hope to paint a new picture in which Democrats, with their resistance to any limits, are the inflexible ones.

This turn of the center reflects the Republican Party's pragmatic approach to the 2000 election after the loss of the last two presidential elections and with their majority in the House of Representatives hanging by a thread. It does not mean that Republican leaders plan to back off the abortion issue entirely.

"I think a lot of people on my side — the 'pro-life' side — have decided that making incremental progress is better than trying to throw the long bomb," said Haley Barbour, a former Republican Party chairman.

Linda DiVall, a Republican pollster who has signed on with Mrs. Dole, said that in one of her recent surveys voters gave Democrats a 20-point edge over Republicans in tolerating other points of view. "I think there's a greater understanding of just how divisive this issue is," she said.

"Also, there is a great desire among Republicans to win this campaign."

The debate is loaded with nuances, but as the Republican candidates state

their positions, most seem to agree the party should concentrate on initiatives over which a public consensus is most possible: outlawing late-term abortion, continuing the ban on government funding for abortion and requiring parental consent for abortions performed on minors.

Mrs. Dole, a former secretary of transportation and former secretary of labor, listed those goals as worthy and attainable in a letter to a supporter made public last week by her campaign. She stressed she was "pro-life," but called on her party to accept people who disagreed on the issue.

She wrote that she would support the idea of a constitutional ban on abortion if it were possible for such an amendment to be approved. "But of course, it's not," she wrote. "It's not going to happen because the American people do not support it."

The executive director of the Christian Coalition, Randy Tate, said the political environment within the party had evolved in a way that made statements such as Mrs. Dole's acceptable to many who oppose abortion.

Mr. Tate said many anti-abortion leaders had made a strategic decision to move the debate incrementally. "The end remains the same," he said, but the means have changed.

Mr. Bush said last month that "America is not ready" for a constitutional ban. He said he opposed abortion except in cases of rape, incest and when the life of the woman is in danger. The founder of the Christian Coalition, Pat Robertson, defended Mr. Bush, insisting that the governor was "profoundly pro-life."

Mr. McCain opposes abortion, but he has said the party should restore language from the 1980 platform plank that recognized different views on the issue within the party.

Mr. Quayle also is promoting a pragmatic approach. "You can pass a partial-birth abortion ban, and I would do that right away," he said last week. He also suggested that only abortion foes should be named as federal judges. "That's about it for what you can achieve," he said.

Not every Republican hopeful agrees. Gary Bauer, who ran the conservative Family Research Council before stepping down to explore a run for president, issued a news release Monday challenging Mrs. Dole's "retreat" on abortion.

And Greg Mueller, a spokesman for the publisher Steve Forbes, said that as president Mr. Forbes would use "the bully pulpit" to promote a constitutional ban.

Away From Politics

• A 54-year-old Chilean immigrant and a live-in baby sitter in Braintree, Massachusetts, came forward Wednesday to claim the \$197 million Big Game jackpot, the largest lottery prize ever won by an individual in U.S. history. (AP)

• Two Florida whooping cranes have produced the first eggs laid in the U.S. wild in decades, raising hopes that the birds will make a comeback. (AP)

• In an assault on endangered species, a commercial fishing vessel hit a reef off the Hawaiian island of Kauai, spilling about 16,000 gallons of diesel fuel. (AP)

• O.J. Simpson wrestled with a gunman who tried to rob him in the parking lot of a golf course in Los Angeles. Mr. Simpson, who was cleared in 1995 in his estranged wife's murder, chased the gunman in his car while calling the police on a cellular phone. He gave up because the man was running red lights and officers had pulled Mr. Simpson over. (AP)

In the Mirror, Quayle Sees a President

By David Von Drehle
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Dan Quayle does not see himself as others see him.

That is the key, according to his friends and close advisers. It is why Mr. Quayle announced Wednesday, in his boyhood home of Huntington, Indiana, that he is running for president of the United States. In interviews he says quite confidently that he is going to win.

Pay no attention to those early polls that show him drawing single-digit support, miles behind the early favorites. Mr. Quayle says he likes being the underdog.

[Announcing his candidacy in his hometown, Mr. Quayle called the 1990s "the dishonest decade of Bill Clinton and Al Gore," and he pledged to restore integrity and responsibility to the White House in 2001. The Associated Press reported.]

"The time has come to reset the moral compass," Mr. Quayle told a cheering crowd at Huntington North High School. "We must not stand by and let our values be trashed."

Dan Quayle, the human punch line, scorned on scores of Internet sites, shooing for the late-night talk show Hall of Fame.

The man who said: "I didn't live in this century."

And, at an AIDS clinic during the

early days of the drug AZT: "Are they taking DDT?"

And, "What a waste it is to lose one's mind." (He was trying for "A mind is a terrible thing to waste.")

That is not the way he sees himself. The Dan Quayle running for president is another character entirely.

Before the tanning and the ridicule, there was a young, bold, never-beaten Indiana supercol. Elected to Congress over an entrenched incumbent in 1976 at the age of 29; congressman four years later of the liberal stalwart Birch Bayh to enter the Senate; victorious as vice president in 1988 at a mere 41.

This Dan Quayle decided to go flat-out for the vice presidency in 1988 because he was at roughly the same age as which Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt made their vice presidential bids. That is how Mr. Quayle sees himself. Having climbed so many steps so quickly, he cannot imagine stopping short of the top.

"He doesn't buy the media image of him," says Mr. Quayle's former chief of staff, William Kristol. "And if you don't buy the image, why wouldn't you run? He's the former vice president, he's been a successful politician all his life, and he sees no one else in the race to whom he should defer."

So it is that Dan Quayle, now 52, is sitting for an interview, laying out with calm self-confidence his plan for win-

ning the Republican presidential nomination. The American people are, he insists, fundamentally fair, and when he offers them his experience and his foreign policy expertise, they will consider him anew. He will explode to an early victory — a dazzling debate performance, perhaps, followed by a victory in the Iowa caucuses or the New Hampshire primary and then, zoom.

It's not easy chasing the White House. Some people run because opportunity knocks, some run to champion a particular agenda and some — maybe most — run because when they look in the mirror they see a president. Mr. Quayle is this last type.

Mr. Quayle says he began weighing a presidential bid in his 30s.

While he still shows no sign that he will ever become an orator, in his maturity he speaks with some poise and produces fewer blunders.

As a former vice president, he is the highest-ranking elected Republican official still in the fray. He has strong conservative credentials without a tinge of the extreme. He has had three children and just one wife.

But in the calculus of the Republican elite, those pluses can't offset the One Big Minus. The party's money people, strategists, local officials and apparition-chicks have stamped past their former vice president to embrace Governor George Bush of Texas.

In Tomorrow's IHT

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The Battle for Kosovo / A Ground Force for NATO Still Raises Questions

Months of Delay Seen Before Troops Could Enter Balkans Combat

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Even as NATO leaders sidestep questions about the possibility of sending ground troops to Kosovo, some of the U.S. and European soldiers who could take part in an invasion have begun to assemble in Macedonia and Albania, countries from where, defense experts say, a ground assault would likely be launched.

A contingent of nearly 11,000 NATO troops is in Macedonia, sent there weeks ago to lead an expected peacekeeping force into Kosovo but now assisting refugees from the shattered Serbian province.

Anticipating an operation in Kosovo

— whether peace enforcement or combat — Britain announced that it was sending an additional 1,800 troops to Macedonia, equipped with tanks and other armored vehicles. France said it was sending 700 more soldiers.

In Albania, more than 2,000 of an expected NATO contingent of 8,000 troops have arrived, also to help with refugee relief efforts. They have no combat mission. But a U.S. Army task force being airlifted in with AH-64A Apache helicopters, missile and rocket batteries, tanks and armored troop carriers — will be establishing the first reported staging area in Albania designed for cross-border operations against Yugoslav forces.

Defense officials disclosed that Gen-

eral Wesley Clark, the NATO commander, had requested doubling the number of Apaches slated to go, to 48 from 24.

Still, military officials say the stationing of allied ground units along the southern rim of Yugoslavia has nothing to do with a NATO invasion force.

Any NATO attempt to invade Yugoslavia and seize territory, they add, likely would involve a much larger force, and it would require months to assemble and prepare for battle.

In the meantime, they say, there has been little detailed planning for such a force and no political decision to start down that path. Even units that are in the region but have been diverted to refugee relief operations would require exten-

sive preparation ahead of an invasion.

"We can't have troops passing out blankets one day, and then tell those same forces to conduct combat operations the next," said retired General George Joulwan, General Clark's predecessor. "You've got to train the force; you've got to prepare them."

Preliminary estimates drawn up by alliance planners last summer found that 8,000 troops would be needed just to secure the border between Albania and Kosovo, the southernmost province of Serbia; 75,000 soldiers would be required for NATO to fight its way into Kosovo, and 200,000 troops would be necessary to win full control of Serbia, according to Pentagon officials.

Those assessments preceded the

NATO air strikes pounding Yugoslav air defenses and doing other damage that presumably would weaken the threat to NATO ground troops.

Nonetheless, a ground attack offers no easy alternative to NATO's air campaign, according to defense experts. They say NATO infantry units would still face formidable challenges from rugged terrain and determined resistance by Yugoslav troops, estimated at 40,000 in and around Kosovo before the bombing began.

The ground option has gained favor among many lawmakers and others who have argued that the United States and its allies should at least prepare for an invasion in the event NATO warplanes are unable to force President Slobodan Mi-

losevic to pull Yugoslav Army and special police units out of Kosovo. But military specialists say mounting such a ground operation would be tough and risky, especially against Yugoslav troops who have had ample opportunity to dig in and lay mines at the few entry routes into the remote province.

"In the present circumstances, the potential loss of life among our servicemen and women, to say nothing of civilians, would be considerable," Prime Minister Tony Blair said while announcing the dispatch of the additional British troops to Macedonia.

Clinton administration officials have expressed concern that any move to constitute an alliance invasion force would trigger a divisive debate that could undercut support here and in Europe for the air operation.

"The first thing that needs to be decided is the objective of an invasion," said a European diplomat involved in policy-making on Kosovo. "Would it be to flush Yugoslav forces out of Kosovo and return the refugees, or kick Milosevic out of Belgrade? Whichever of those you choose will have significant implications on the size of the force required and the means to be used."

Geographically, an assault from Hungary, north of Serbia, into Belgrade would be most inviting because it would take NATO forces across largely flat, open terrain, according to military specialists. But it also would require the largest force and likely would encounter the greatest resistance from Serbian forces determined to defend their homeland and capital.

A more limited attack aimed solely at securing Kosovo would involve fewer NATO forces, but finding routes into the province across the mountainous borders with Macedonia and Albania poses formidable difficulties. Just establishing ports, airfields and staging areas for massing tens of thousands of NATO troops in these two countries, which are among Europe's poorest, presents logistical nightmares.

"Not only are the border crossings themselves difficult, but the routes to them are pretty nonexistent," the diplomat said.

"In Albania, there's not much of a rail network and the airports are poor. In Macedonia, you have at least a couple of main rail routes but there's only one main road basically up from the port of Thessaloniki."

Yugoslav forces, in evident preparation to defend against a NATO invasion, have been digging in along both major routes into Kosovo from Macedonia, scooping out trenches and building bunkers, according to defense officials. They also have been laying mines along Kosovo borders.

NATO: Bonn Proposes Respite in Bombing

Continued from Page 1

Apparently hoping to avoid a bloody deadlock, the plan for a first step to settle the Kosovo crisis was put forward by Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany, which now holds the rotating EU presidency.

Germany's coalition government, led by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, a Social Democrat, includes the Greens, a party whose pacifist roots must be kept in mind by Mr. Fischer, himself a Green.

At NATO, Mr. Shear said that the German suggestion was "useful and necessary to start reflection on how we are going to handle the diplomacy of the end-game" and get acceptance of NATO's terms.

In Washington, Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman, said: "We will address a potential cessation of bombing when we get there."

But James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said the German suggestion was constructive and "within NATO parameters."

The full details of Mr. Fischer's plan, as reported from Bonn, were likely to be more controversial even though they seemed to be less an olive branch to Mr. Milosevic than an attempt to enlist Moscow's backing for an intensified peace effort in parallel with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization air war, which has alienated Russian leaders and many citizens.

For that, Mr. Fischer seemed ready to move away from NATO's insistence on a robust core force to handle peacekeeping in Kosovo and replace it with a UN force.

Once a Serbian pullout has been completed, the plan said, NATO would "permanently suspend" air strikes.

A three-stage process would follow: a heavily armed UN military force would

move into Kosovo as Serbian forces withdrew. Kosovo would be put under UN administration until completion of a permanent peace settlement.

A UN command role would almost certainly be unacceptable to the United States and to Britain and France, all of which were frustrated by shortcomings of the UN effort in Bosnia until NATO intervened.

But some UN role, in European eyes, offsets the precedent of NATO attacking Serbia without an explicit mandate from the Security Council, an initiative that the allies agreed was essential to circumvent a Russian veto.

European officials said that they wanted to pre-empt any U.S. attempt to enshrine this degree of independence in alliance doctrine at the NATO summit meeting in Washington this month.

Defending their plan and also explaining Mr. Annan's presence at the EU summit meeting, German officials said that they hoped to strike a chord with Moscow and draw Russia away from Belgrade into a diplomatic front against Mr. Milosevic.

Mr. Annan, who met earlier with NATO officials and with Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, has been cautious about any role he might play.

The overture to Moscow was backed by France and by the Clinton administration. Officials in Washington have said that President Boris Yeltsin has been put on the defensive in his own country against nationalists. Mr. Yeltsin, while denouncing the NATO strikes against a fellow Slavic country, has avoided any move to help Belgrade militarily.

President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus reportedly met in Belgrade on Wednesday with Mr. Milosevic. Mr. Lukashenko, the first foreign leader to visit Belgrade since the start of the NATO bombing campaign three weeks



Rebels from the Kosovo Liberation Army heading off to the front lines along the Albanian border Wednesday.

ago, was exploring Serbian interest in joining a loose pact between Belarus and Russia.

Reports of his Belgrade visit prompted a quick warning from Moscow against any attempt to drag Russia into a military conflict over Kosovo.

So far, there have been no signs of any divergences among allied governments about the war with Mr. Milosevic, even in countries such as Italy and Greece, where the NATO campaign is unpopular and could become a political problem as the conflict intensified.

NATO warplanes were reported Wednesday to have hit Serbia's power-generating system for the first time. The

loss of electricity affects civilians as much as the military, and the new targeting suggested that NATO, while continuing to cut bridges and supply lines to isolate and weaken Serbian forces in Kosovo, was also going to make the war more painful for ordinary Serbians.

The air strike on the Bistrica hydroelectric power plant was accompanied by an attack on a major food-processing factory in Valjevo, amid reports of food rationing in Serbia for the first time.

Militarily, NATO spokesmen said that allied military prospects were improving with the prospect of better flying weather as more aircraft arrived, including the first Apache ground attack heli-

copters, which are expected in the region in the next few days.

Another potential flashpoint was the presence of the tiny Serbian Navy in Montenegro, the small Yugoslav republic on the Adriatic that has been trying to keep out of the conflict and that is now in a dispute with Belgrade about the ships.

Arguing that the Serbian vessels are liable to draw NATO fire, protesters in Montenegro have called for them to leave.

But Yugoslavia has no port outside Montenegro and might use any threat to the ships' presence as a pretext to overthrow the pro-Western government.

KIDS: Tents for Lucky Ones

Continued from Page 1

they have not found a source of disposable diapers.

Life in Kukes: It is unimaginably bad in Week 3 for the refugees, and for children it is unimaginably worse.

There are no sinks, no showers, no toilets, no toilet paper. The water is giving more and more children diarrhea, and without toilet paper the only thing parents can use to clean their children is the very water that is making them ill.

There are also increasing numbers of cases of scabies, head lice and bronchitis, and as of Monday seven cases of measles had been reported.

"My goodness," Olara Otunnu, UN undersecretary for children in armed conflict, kept saying as he toured the refugee camps.

And then there is the matter of toys. "The children are playing with garbage," Elvana Zhezha, of the Albanian Center for Human Rights, told Mr. Otunnu.

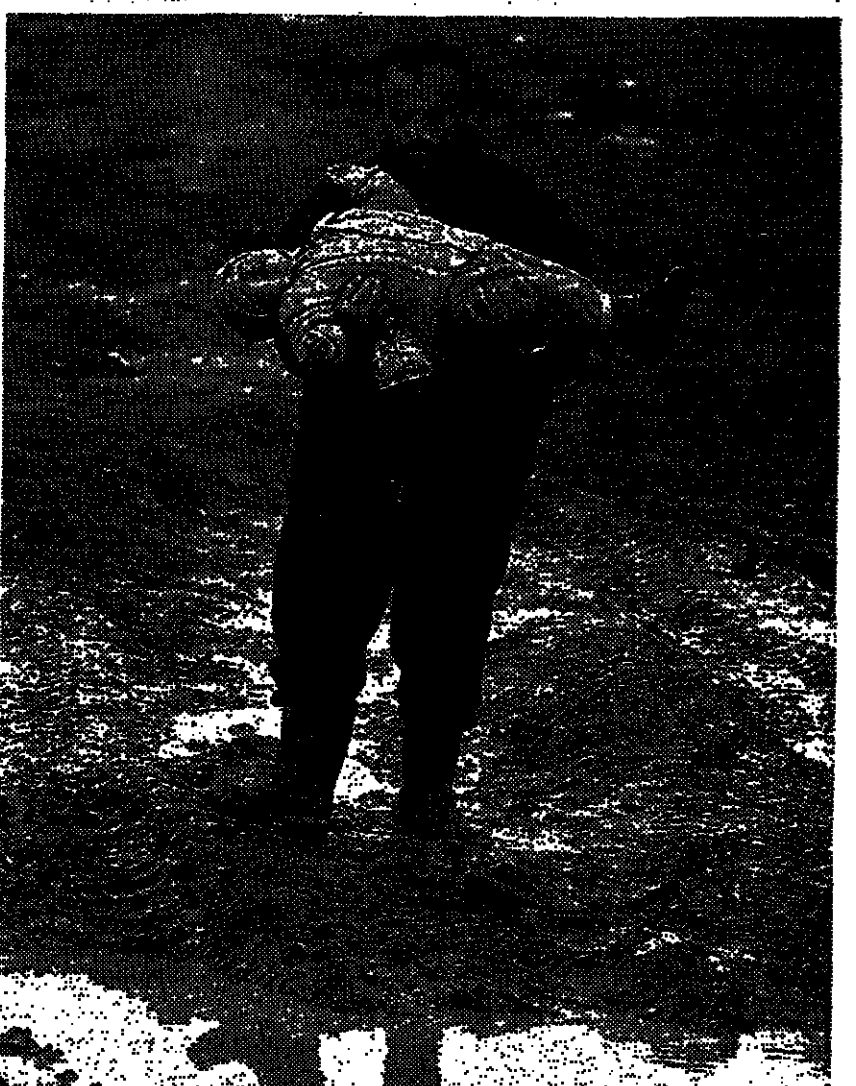
On the day before, when Carol Bellamy, head of Unicef, was touring Kukes and asked Ms. Zhezha what was needed, she said, "Everything." So far, though, nothing has arrived.

"Maybe today," she is saying. She is standing near the mosque, near the steps, which have become an unofficial headquarters for the relief efforts aimed specifically at children. She is helping to coordinate a therapy program for traumatized children. She wants colored pencils for them to draw with. She wants paper, dolls and balls.

All that Ms. Zhezha has, though, is a team of three people who have taken a two-week course on psychosocial trauma therapy. One of them, a doctor named Feride Rushiti, is leading dozens of children in what amounts to an attempt at group therapy.

She motions them into a circle. One by one, they tell quiet stories about what happened to them in Kosovo, and then they recite verses they learned when they lived in a place that had schools to teach them poems.

That is about all Dr. Rushiti can do at



An ethnic Albanian refugee carrying a crying child Wednesday through a refugee camp marked by mud puddles in Kukes, Albania. About 100,000 refugees from the Kosovo fighting are now in the northern town of Kukes.

this point with the children, other than pat their backs or rub their heads or touch their cheeks or hold their hands, which she does over and over.

"When will we go back to Kosovo?" they ask Ms. Zhezha every day.

"Soon," she always tells them. "Very soon," which is the answer she tells herself as well. She, too, is from

Kosovo; she, too, wants to go back.

"If you say, 'Not soon,' they will be more depressed than they are," she said after the children scattered from the steps and she was in a Unicef car on the way to other parts of Kukes.

But as the car moved along the streets, she was the one depressed enough to lean her head against the window and cry.

CONVOY: Yugoslavia Reports 75 Refugees Killed in NATO Raid

Continued from Page 1

province, a Pentagon official said.

According to Jeff Rowand of the World Food Program, refugees crossing the Albanian border said they saw three aircraft drop three bombs that hit two tractors, killing many people. Other refugees said they saw dead, mutilated bodies by the road, including those of women and children, Mr. Rowand said.

Mr. Bacon said the incident Wednesday was being investigated, which he said "may take some time."

"We did hit military vehicles in a convoy," he said. "We are quite sure we hit only military vehicles. We will obviously review what happened."

"There were two separate attacks," a Serbian official in Pristina said. "In one

in the village of Zrze, six people were killed and 11 wounded. In another one, in the village of Meja, 64 people were killed and 20 wounded, including three Serb policemen who were escorting the convoy."

The village of Meja is near Djakovica in western Kosovo. Zrze is on the road between Djakovica and Prizren, further south.

No independent confirmation was immediately available.

On the Albanian side of the border, an aid worker said he had spoken to refugees who witnessed the attack and could not say whether the aircraft were NATO planes.

Nebojsa Vujovic, a Yugoslav Foreign Ministry spokesman, said, "NATO bombs created a new humanitarian ca-

tastrophe and tragedy, bombing the two convoys of refugees returning to their homes" from the border with Albania.

"The bodies are literally littered on the highway," he said, denouncing the strike as a "crime against humanity."

The attacks occurred at 1 P.M. and between 2.20 P.M. and 3 P.M., Yugoslav sources said.

Pictures taken by a Reuters photographer, escorted to the scene by Serbian officials, also showed people with horrific face injuries being treated and a small boy wandering through the scene carrying a plastic bag.

At least two tractors and a horse and cart were visible on the road, which was strewn with mattresses, pillows and blankets as well as human remains. (AFP, AP, Reuters, IHT)

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سكراوات الرقص

The Battle for Kosovo / "The State of War Does Not Mean That Civic Courage Should Be Trampled Upon"

A Dissenting Voice in Belgrade

Deputy Prime Minister Attacks Alliance With Russia and Belarus

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — The most liberal member of the Yugoslav government has sharply attacked the use of Serbian wartime patriotism for ideological and political ends, throwing down an indirect challenge to President Slobodan Milosevic and his nationalist and leftist allies, including Mr. Milosevic's wife.

In two extraordinary statements over the last two days, the deputy prime minister of Yugoslavia, Vuk Draskovic, has become the only official voice to condemn both the murder on Sunday of an opposition publisher, Slavko Cuvrijeta, and proposals for Yugoslavia to form an alliance with Russia and Belarus.

"May Slavko Cuvrijeta be the first and last victim of those in Serbia who want to start the mad spiral of fratricide," Mr. Draskovic said Monday night on the Belgrade television station, Studio B, which is controlled by his Serbian Renewal

Movement, which governs Belgrade.

He also called on political parties not to manipulate the patriotism and unity of the Serbs in wartime, saying: "All parties should temporarily bury their differences and insignias," attacking in particular the re-emergence of the old communist partisan flag, with its red star.

On Tuesday, Mr. Draskovic went further in attacking the idea of an alliance with Russia and Belarus, which won overwhelming support Monday from the Yugoslav Parliament.

The alliance is strongly supported by the Yugoslav Left Party of Mr. Milosevic's powerful wife, Mirjana Markovic, who envisions a new communist bloc with Yugoslavia at its heart. President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus was expected in Belgrade on Wednesday to meet with Mr. Milosevic.

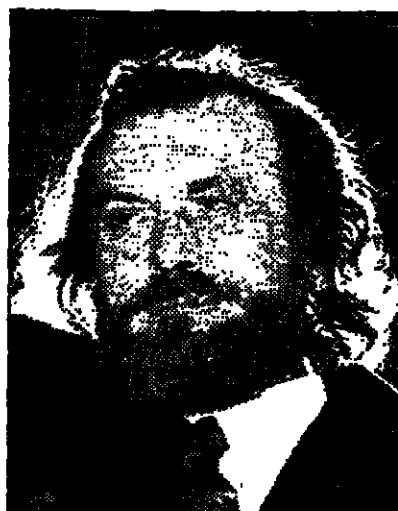
"There are political forces who think we should enter the 21st century on the ruins of a destroyed state," Mr. Draskovic said. "They think we should pick

up picks and shovels with the same songs, the same iconography, and 50 years later, start building communism all over again. This must not happen."

He also attacked the ultranationalist Radical Party of Deputy Prime Minister Vojislav Seselj for bringing its own banners and pictures of Mr. Seselj to the daily Belgrade rock concerts organized by the city. When they did so Monday, the organizers asked them to put down their banners, and the rock band, Del Arno, stopped playing until the Seselj followers dispersed.

If such efforts to misuse and manipulate unity continue, Mr. Draskovic said, the concerts will stop. "And I don't believe that anyone has the right to lower their heads while journalists are being murdered," Mr. Draskovic continued. "The state of war does not mean that civic courage should be trampled upon."

Mr. Draskovic, who was one of the leaders of the pro-democracy demonstrations of 1996 and 1997, joined the



Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic challenges the regime.

Milosevic government last year in what his former allies considered an act of opportunism. Mr. Draskovic failed to win support for a compromise on Kosovo that might have prevented the NATO bombing campaign. But since the bombing began, he has become an effective spokesman for the Serbian cause.

War Crimes Panel Seeks NATO Aid on Milosevic

Alliance Slow to Give Evidence, Officials Say

By Marise Simons
New York Times Service

THE HAGUE — Prosecutors at the international war crimes tribunal have built a strong case to indict President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, diplomats and lawyers close to the tribunal say. But they say the prosecutors are depending on NATO governments for crucial links that they need to bolster their case.

The tribunal still refuses to confirm officially that it is investigating Mr. Milosevic. But prosecutors concede that they have been pursuing the Yugoslav leadership.

"It is right to say that our focus is at the top end," said Graham Blewitt, the deputy prosecutor of the tribunal, which was set up by the United Nations in 1993. The diplomats say tribunal investigators have focused on Mr. Milosevic for almost a year.

As reports of Yugoslav forces killing and terrorizing ethnic Albanians have grown, the court has been inundated with questions about when it will indict Mr. Milosevic on war crimes charges.

Officials at the tribunal have responded with frustration, saying they have been delayed because NATO member countries have been slow to provide vital information about the inner workings of the Yugoslav political and military command.

Investigators say the issue is not to collect evidence of more crimes in Kosovo. Rather, they argue, they need to demonstrate what orders were given, who was involved and what knowledge commanders had of crimes committed by subordinates.

"Of course we have a lot of evidence of crime in Kosovo," Mr. Blewitt said. "We can now indict people in the chain of command. But it's a question of what level. We could go faster if we had the right evidence about the top."

The chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, will visit NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday to ask the allies for greater cooperation in sharing their intelligence. The information she needs is likely to be highly classified and includes interceptions of radio, telephone or computer communications, which NATO countries have so far withheld.

NATO and British and American officials have said they have information that they will give the tribunal.

"But we're not seeing the goods," Mr. Blewitt said. "We're not getting anywhere near what we're expecting."

Tribunal officials said the information would shore up the cases they were building. "We want an indictment only when it will result in a conviction," Mr. Blewitt said.

Making the link between Mr. Milosevic and the reported brutal action of his forces in Kosovo appears simple enough: he is the Yugoslav head of state and commander in chief of the armed forces, and Kosovo, a Serbian province, is part of Yugoslavia.

From a legal point of view, tribunal investigators say, it is easier to hold Mr. Milosevic accountable now than during the war in Bosnia, which he instigated and backed but from which he took care to keep a formal distance as president of Serbia.

Mr. Milosevic has shown himself very adept at avoiding paper trails and



Mr. Milosevic, back to camera, embracing President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, in Belgrade for a state visit Wednesday.

evading interceptions during the war that broke up Yugoslavia, specialists say.

He can also answer some of the prosecution charges. For example, one investigator said, in the case of Kosovo, Mr. Milosevic can produce a written order saying that all troops in the Yugoslav Army must behave in accordance with the law and that any offenses against civilians or criminal acts will be punished severely.

Prosecutors said they needed information that not only supported an indictment but could also be used in court.

"In the past we have been given leads and intelligence, and then we go back to the source and say we'd like to use this in the courtroom," Mr. Blewitt said. "Then they say no, because they do not want to expose their intelligence-gathering methods or compromise their sources."

Part of the debate outside the tribunal is whether NATO allies want to see Mr. Milosevic indicted at this point, since it could be difficult to negotiate with him once he was formally charged as a war crimes suspect.

Tribunal officials said they had not been subjected to pressure by governments to indict senior Yugoslav officials or to withhold indictments. Pressure has come from public opinion and from questions asked by the press, they said.

"There seems to be an expectation that something is going to happen right now," Mr. Blewitt said.

That expectation may also exist in Yugoslavia. For three weeks the Yugoslav Embassy in The Hague has had no dealings with the tribunal, refusing to accept letters, documents and even telephone calls, an official said.

■ Serb Militia Leader Indicted

Tribunal prosecutors have indicted the Serb paramilitary leader known as Arkan with at least three categories of war crimes, including crimes against humanity, according to court documents released Wednesday, Reuters reported.

Mrs. Arbour said March 31 that Zeljko Raznatovic, also known as Arkan, was named on a sealed indictment that dated from September 1997. She gave no details of the charges at the time, but said she was serving an arrest warrant to Yugoslavia.

In Kosovo, A Bus Terminal And Graveyard Hit by Bombs

By Paul Watson
Los Angeles Times Service

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — NATO bombers scored several hits Tuesday in the capital of Kosovo, including a graveyard, a bus station and a children's basketball court.

The strikes were not mentioned when General Wesley Clark, commander of the NATO forces, briefed reporters in Brussels on the air campaign's successes.

But the general stressed that almost all of the NATO pilots' weapons are precision-guided, so-called smart bombs, and that "almost without exception, the targets are very precisely struck."

He repeated that NATO was not at war with the people of Yugoslavia, so Brankica Budimir might be forgiven for not understanding why her small Pristina apartment was in ruins.

A bomb or missile struck the edge of a playground in the center of Ms. Budimir's large apartment complex during a heavy bombardment around 1:40 A.M.

Nearby was a black steel pole holding up a basketball backboard and a hoop without a net, about 45 meters (150 feet) across a parking lot from Ms. Budimir's second-floor apartment in the southern Dardania district of Pristina.

The explosion shattered practically every window and sliding door in the four-story apartment block where the 46-year-old Serb, a researcher at the Center for the Environment in Pristina, lives a middle-class life with her three children, 10, 18 and 22.

No one was reported killed by the explosion, but that was small consolation to the hundreds of traumatized residents left to pick through the remains of their homes and cars.

Ms. Budimir, still trembling and in shock, swept up broken glass and pieces of twisted metal Tuesday in an apart-



Residents of Pristina surveying the damaged structure of the Kosovo capital's central bus station, which they said, had been struck during heavy NATO bombardment. "There is no excuse for this," the station director said.

ment that would not be out of place in many American cities. Her youngest child's bedroom was decorated with movie posters advertising "101 Dalmatians" and "Aladdin."

Overcome with tears, Ms. Budimir apologized for losing her composure, and for what she was about to say.

"If this is NATO democracy, and the fight for humanitarianism and human lives, this should be held against their own honor," she said in the wreckage of her small kitchen. "Maybe this should happen to them so that their children grow up in fear and panic. I don't like to believe this, but they have gone overboard."

The apartment building is exclusively Serbian, and Ms. Budimir wondered aloud whether NATO attacked it in what she called "a terrorist act."

Civilian casualties from the NATO strikes in Pristina, which number in the dozens, include Serbs, ethnic Albanians, ethnic Turks and Gypsies, so no one feels safe anymore. Since NATO did not mention the strike at its briefing Tuesday, there was no ready explanation for

why it took place.

The device that hit the playground caused a heavy explosion but left only a small crater compared with many bombs that have hit Pristina. The crater was about 4.5 meters across, and only centimeters deep.

There were no tire marks or tracks by armored vehicles in the playground's damp grass to suggest that NATO was aiming at military vehicles hidden there.

Standing amid the smoldering rubble of the city bus terminal Tuesday, the director of the facility, Dragan Manojlovic, could not see the logic behind NATO's strategy.

Bombs destroyed most of the two-story bus station, the main public transport hub linking Kosovo to the rest of Yugoslavia.

"There is no excuse for this," Mr. Manojlovic said, "there was nothing military here."

"I don't think they even know why," he said. "Maybe it is psychological."

Mr. Manojlovic's terminal was one of the country's best bus stations and had a

computerized ticketing service, he said.

The bus terminal was about 450 meters away, and on the other side of the highway, from an army barracks, which NATO destroyed with bombs over several days and nights.

NATO also hit a fuel depot on the southern edge of Pristina early Tuesday. The same bombing run destroyed a plastics factory in the next lot, and about 30 graves in a cemetery adjacent to the fuel depot.

It was the second time the graveyard has been bombed.

NATO blasted a huge crater at the other end of the cemetery April 7, enraging Orthodox Serbs who saw remains of their loved ones scattered on the ground.

Nada Turcinovic had arrived at the cemetery Tuesday morning to bury her son, Zoran Dragutinovic. But she had to sit and wait, weeping on a curb, until the roar of NATO jets finally passed around 10:35 A.M.

"My son," she chanted softly to herself, dressed all in black: "My son. My heart, my soul, my Zoran."

5,000 Refugees Cross Border to Macedonia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BLACE, Macedonia — At least 5,000 Kosovo Albanians arrived at the Macedonian border post of Blace on Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Wednesday.

Two consecutive waves of 2,000 refugees crossed at Blace, the spokeswoman, Pamela Ghedini, said. A thousand others were massed around the western Macedonian town of Lojane, she said.

The refugees came by train, bus and car and appeared to be in good shape, the spokeswoman said. "They came with their families," she said, and most had identity documents and valuables.

A few drove across the border at Blace in their cars. Others skirted minefields and walked along the railway until they were stopped by border guards and directed through the fields to the Blace checkpoint. They were then put on buses and taken to refugee camps.

Many appeared to have traveled on a regular morning train from the southern Kosovo town of Uroševac. The refugees told an international monitor that their train was packed and that several hundred more people had gathered at the station to await the next one.

It was the first time since Belgrade sealed its borders a week earlier that such a steady stream of people had moved across the Blace border crossing.

Fears for hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians thought to be stranded in the hills of Kosovo grew Wednesday as both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the UN refugee agency admitted they did not know where they were.

Sadako Ogata, head of the UN agency, said after talks with the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana Madariaga, that her office was "gaining control" of the refugee situation in the countries bordering Kosovo.

"We have turned the situation around, but I am very worried about those in Kosovo," she said. "We do not know exactly how many they are."

Mr. Solana said the alliance was looking at the possibility of organizing air drops of food and other supplies to the displaced people. But he cautioned: "It is a very, very difficult situation. We do not know where the majority of the people are."

Separately, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization warned that Kosovo faced a long-term food shortage because most crops had been destroyed or abandoned unharvested in the fields and new crops had not been planted.

"Apart from the direct human consequences, the Kosovo crisis has devastated the agricultural and food-processing industries, resulting in a severe reduction in food output, supplies and food availability," it said.

The Rome-based agency said that even if refugees were allowed to return to their homes, massive international relief assistance would be needed to feed the population until agricultural production was restored. (AFP, Reuters, AP)



Kosovar refugees waiting beside a line of 20 buses near the border crossing at Blace, Macedonia.

REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

Announcement of Privatisation By International Public Tender of State Owned Financial Sector Institutions

The Unidade de Coordenação do Projecto de Privatizações e Regulação Institucional (Privatisation Unit) of the Republic of Cape Verde, in accordance with the Law on Privatisation of the Republic of Cape Verde, Decree Law 70/98 and Resolution 74/98 of 31st December, 1998 announces the sale, by international public tender, of state owned shares in three (3) financial sector institutions with interlocking shareholdings, according to the following criteria and terms: (i) as a financial group, or (ii) as three separate individual institutions, and/or (iii) any combination thereof.

Name	Type of Institution	No of State Owned Shares	No of Shares for this bid	% of Institution for this bid
BCA	Commercial Bank	775.000	525.000	52.50
GARANTIA	Insurance Company	96.620	91.789	45.895*
PROMOTORA	Venture Capital Company	255.000	180.000	40.000*

*The Government will contractually ensure that management control will be held by the successful bidder

The bid package containing the Confidential Information Memoranda and other pertinent bid documents may be acquired at a cost of Euro 20.000 Euros from the Privatisation Unit (UPR) at Largo do Cruzeiro - Ténis, Praia, Cabo Verde, telephone (238) 61 23 19, Fax (238) 61 23 34, email: cvprivatization@mail.cvtelecom.cv.

Any request of information, questions or clarification regarding the bidding process may be addressed to the Bid Committee at the Privatisation Unit, at the above indicated address.

The bid proposals must be submitted by 16h00, local time on Friday, July 9, 1999, at the office of the Privatisation Unit, Largo do Cruzeiro - Ténis, Praia, Cabo Verde, in wax sealed envelopes according to the instructions contained in the Resolution n°74/98 of December 31, 1998, published in the official gazette n°48, Serie I.

The bid proposals opening session will take place at 10h00, local time on Monday, 12th July, 1999 in the Ministry of Finance, Praia, Cabo Verde.

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Election in Algeria

Algeria's presidential election on Thursday offers an opportunity to end a seven-year civil war between the army and Islamic guerrillas that has cost more than 75,000 lives. But for that to happen, the ruling generals must permit an honest vote count and allow the winner to govern freely.

As the campaign has proceeded, the army has made clear its preference for former Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika, making him a strong favorite. Surprisingly, however, several opposition candidates have been allowed to wage competitive campaigns.

The leading challengers are Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who is endorsed by many of the Islamic groups that began the insurgency, and former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, who advocates democratic and market reforms. Unless the front-runner gets more than 50 percent of the vote Thursday, he must face the next-highest fin-

isher in a runoff election this month. Algeria's last seriously contested campaign ended abruptly in January 1992 when the army blocked a runoff parliamentary vote that an Islamic fundamentalist party seemed certain to win. Radical Islamic guerrillas then unleashed a campaign of terror that targeted secular civilians, intellectuals and foreigners as well as soldiers. Army leaders responded with violent repression and blocked all attempts at a negotiated settlement.

Violent incidents peaked early last year. Yet more than 200 people are still being killed every month. As some generals and Islamic leaders now seem willing to recognize, force alone cannot bring Algeria lasting peace. Having sanctioned democratic competition, both sides are now obliged to honor the results. The elections should proceed without tampering or interruption.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Debate on Kosovo

As the air war over Yugoslavia heads toward its fourth week, pressure is building on President Bill Clinton to send ground forces into battle. Critics of the NATO campaign are right to open a debate about military and diplomatic options, and the planning for all contingencies should begin. But there should be no illusions about the difficulties and potential costs of a land war. A great deal more bombing and diplomacy should be employed before the United States makes any final decisions about the use of ground troops.

Though the air war has progressed slowly, and has done little to impede the Serbian march across Kosovo, it is inflicting heavy damage on Serbia's military and industrial base. Given time, the attacks can wear down Slobodan Milosevic's resistance and make his people impatient to end the bombing. It is certainly premature to conclude that air strikes are not enough and only an invasion can secure NATO's political and military goals. Mr. Milosevic well knows that the steady destruction of oil refineries, weapons factories, ammunition supplies and communication networks will eventually cripple his military forces, and possibly undermine his political power.

As painful as the air war may sometimes be in Serbia — on Monday a NATO missile severed a rail bridge, killing at least nine people as a passing train was knocked into a river — NATO must sustain the attacks. Unlike the Serbian assault on Kosovo, the alliance is not deliberately targeting civilians. NATO's 19 members have agreed to continue the aerial bombardment, a sign of unity and determination that Mr. Milosevic should consider carefully as he tries to sow division within the alliance.

Diplomacy also needs time to work.

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, is getting involved, a step the Clinton administration properly welcomed Monday. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met Tuesday in Oslo with Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov of Russia.

Russia remains the best hope for mediating the conflict. Though the war has provoked anti-Western sentiment in Russia, Moscow has grown impatient with Mr. Milosevic's truculence in recent years and recognizes that Russian and Serbian interests do not always coincide. The challenge for Washington is to give the Kremlin some diplomatic maneuvering room without undercutting NATO's aims in Kosovo. One approach, already tacitly endorsed by NATO, would be to include a significant contingent of Russian troops in any international peacekeeping force sent to Kosovo as part of a settlement.

It would take at least six weeks, probably longer, to assemble a ground force of 70,000 troops in the region, along with the tanks, artillery, ammunition and other supplies needed to support an invasion of Kosovo. A much larger force would be needed to invade Serbia itself. Even then, an invading force might encounter fierce resistance from Serbian forces.

Though the use of ground troops should be the option of last resort, planning for an invasion may give Mr. Milosevic reason to plot a diplomatic course. To strengthen the hands of diplomats, and to give NATO a full range of options, Mr. Clinton and his European allies should begin to draw up the plans for a ground assault. Meanwhile, the bombing should proceed and America can engage in a vigorous debate about whether vital U.S. interests will be served by sending troops into Yugoslavia.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Nuclear Adventure

India already had missiles to carry nuclear warheads to Pakistan, its regional rival. With its test Sunday of a ballistic missile with a range of 2,400 kilometers, it now may also have a way to hit major prospective targets in China, its strategic rival. As a bow to India's image of itself as a power fit to play the global game, the Agni II makes its own considerable nationalist and geopolitical contribution. The cost to regional stability, however, comes high.

It was India's nuclear tests last May that triggered a reluctant Pakistan's own tests. These blasts put a burden on both South Asian states to head off any further nuclear racing. The United States responded with a mediating shuttle fixed on advancing nuclear arms control and on drawing India and Pakistan into negotiation on their political differences, especially over disputed Kashmir. On the promise of this shuttle, the United States started peeling back the economic sanctions American law imposes on testers.

But now India has flamboyantly shown just the reverse of nuclear restraint. Worse, it is moving explicitly to make "symmetry" with China, rather than with the lesser Pakistan, its strategic objective.

Arms control was not the only thing the U.S. Congress had on its mind when it started lifting sanctions. Grain sales, for instance, was another. But Congress, having started down that path on the premise that the parties would practice nuclear discretion, cannot fail to ask whether its policy is serving nuclear adventure instead.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Other Comment

Early Jitters About Y2K

Imaginative observers claim to have identified up to 31 so-called "trigger dates" in 1999 that could spark computer problems related to the millennium bug. The good news is that most of those 1999 doom-date predictions are faked. Some have already passed without problems.

For reasons that remain unclear, Jan. 1, 1999, was listed by some as a trigger date for computers to go haywire. Nothing happened. Another date was

Feb. 5, 1999, when travel agents could begin selling air tickets for Jan. 1, 2000. That day passed and U.S. travel reservation systems did not even hiccup, much less crash.

April 1, 1999, was the day on which fiscal year 2000 began in New York state and some foreign nations. Again, there was nothing to report. Most other states and many U.S. corporations face a similar test June 1, when their new fiscal years begin. Until then, preparedness, not panic, is the watchword.

—Los Angeles Times

Adding a Moral Dimension to Military Intervention

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Kosovo is not an affair for which international law has an answer. The search for its solution cannot be confined within the political categories of ethnic rivalry, sovereignty versus intervention, or redrawn frontiers.

It has a moral dimension that sets it apart. The Serbian campaign to uproot, displace and deport a large part of Kosovo's Albanian population is of a savagery unknown in Western Europe, outside the former Yugoslavia, since the second World War.

Mr. Milosevic and his government are attempting to solve their Kosovo problem by producing a basic demographic change in the province through deporting its Albanian population, the overwhelming majority.

According to German government sources, this program for purging Kosovo of its Albanian population was prepared at the end of last year under the code name "Horseshoe." Its initial purpose was to defeat or neutralize the Kosovo Liberation Army, in rebellion against Serbia. In terms of Serbia's international recognition, if abusive, sovereignty over Kosovo, this was a legitimate objective.

The government's experience in op-

erations against the Kosovo Liberation Army during the fall of 1998, which displaced 300,000 people, proved unsatisfactory, since the displaced Kosovars eventually returned home and the KLA's resistance to the Serbs resumed.

Horseshoe was designed to produce a permanent solution, and was launched even before the Rambouillet discussions in February, which the Serbian leadership did not take seriously.

Washington has until recently treated Slobodan Milosevic as a Balkan rogue, indispensable in solving the problems his own policies have created. Moreover, he has repeatedly been elected to lead the country. While these elections were not models of good practice, their outcomes make it hard to deny his electoral legitimacy. This is a deeply dismaying part of the situation.

However, we all were greatly undestimating him. The Serbian president's decision to displace a major part of the Albanian population from their homes, expelling them in an unimaginably brutal way, employing terror, and presumably, as happened earlier in Bosnia, mass executions, demonstrates

that he possesses a moral imagination which merits his comparison with Hitler and Stalin. He acts on a grand scale.

The human consequences of his acts do not interest him. He is on the way to destroying not only Kosovo but Serbia for the sake of his own power.

His actions have contaminated the immense European accomplishment of the past 50 years, the reconciliation of European peoples and the institutionalization of reconciliation in the European Union (and in NATO). The unforgivable things being done in Kosovo have no place in this modern Europe.

NATO has actually intervened in Serbia out of long-developing but ultimately decisive moral outrage. What it has done lacks UN sanction or logical consistency with the past. It is on a new course, but not an unprecedented one. The principle of absolute sovereignty has been challenged in a number of recent developments, including crimes court and the assertion of a right to humanitarian intervention.

NATO's current action will have been wasted as a precedent if what comes out of it is merely a cynical lesson about unilateral action ultimately subordinated to domestic poli-

tics. Worse would be if the humanitarian principle were betrayed by a NATO compromise with Mr. Milosevic, leaving him the implicit victor.

We need to formulate grounds for dispassionate international intervention in cases where international morality and good order are outraged. It is difficult and potentially dangerous to do so. Yet the international community seems to be moving erratically and hesitantly toward such a code. A precedent of a kind, unsatisfactory but significant, lay in the intervention of the Organization of African Unity into the frightful and mindless carnage occurring inside Liberia.

To be validated as a lesson for the future, this NATO intervention in Serbia must succeed. It must not halt until the refugees have been returned, with Kosovo secured under some provisional arrangement that awaits a generally agreed Balkan settlement with a changed government in Belgrade, and with Mr. Milosevic and his responsible colleagues charged as war criminals. That is a tall order, but it is what NATO's leaders have already said they mean to do. That means that anything less is failure.

International Herald Tribune
Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Indonesia Gains Momentum for Its First Open Election

By Philip Bowring

JAKARTA — The communal horrors of East Timor, Ambon and West Kalimantan are real enough. But they no more describe Indonesia than Kashmir, Bihar and Assam describe India.

More remarkable is how stable the heartland, Java, now seems after 18 months of political and economic crisis and the battle of 48 parties for votes in the country's first open parliamentary election June 7. It could be the calm before another storm. Some electioneering violence is inevitable, if only because of the size of crowds that can be generated on a densely populated island. But despite the excitement of elections, and despite regional, religious and income divides, there is an air of normalcy.

The main players have moved toward the center to broaden their appeal and prepare the way for future alliances. The poll will be inconclusive, so coalitions are inevitable. One such player has been Amien Rais, head of the Muhammadiyah Islamic organization and of the PAN, or National Mandate

Party. Previously feared by secularists and Chinese, he has shifted from a strongly Muslim and redistributionist agenda to one broadly attractive to the urban middle class — and even backed by Chinese money.

Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's founding leader, President Sukarno, is saying little about policy, but her Indonesian Democratic Party is widely tipped to emerge as the largest party and has been developing links to military figures and professional, secularist rebels from the governing Golkar party.

The strongest force at work at the grass roots is not ideology but simply a desire to participate. For every member of the old elite who fears elections and wants to see them disrupted, there are at least two who want the vote to show that the nation is capable of political development.

Suspensions that the elections might be rigged or popular will might be thwarted by the mil-

itary still exist. There is evidence of high-placed stirring in Ambon. In remote areas, Golkar may use the government machinery in its favor, although in any case it will fare better in areas outside Java, which have been less affected by the economic crisis. There is concern that even if Golkar genuinely does well, the masses of Java who demand real change will take to the streets.

In theory, a big Golkar showing could thwart change. Add in the 38 military seats in the 500-member Parliament and most of the 200 indirectly elected and appointed seats in the 700-member People's Consultative Assembly — which selects the president — and Golkar could remain in control.

In practice, however, that seems unlikely. Golkar itself is factionalized, with different groups — Islamists, liberal secularists, upholders of the status quo — having different ideas on whether to support the election of President B.J. Habibie.

Moreover, the electoral commission, which oversees the election, has a broad base and has established an independent reputation.

There are dangers that some groups will use violence to disrupt the democratic process. A bigger danger may be that horse trading and money politics at the consultative assembly will deliver a president whose support is broad-based but derived from compromises that make weak government inevitable. Such a government may fail to live up to demands for reform.

The most ardent reformers are themselves divided into the secular and Islamist camps represented respectively by the Indonesian Democratic Party and PAN. Islamist parties, and even the Indonesian Democratic Party, are themselves multithreaded and interwoven with strands of nationalism, statist and free-market thinking.

Battles for economic interest will be intense, but divides are not all along party lines. There is a unique opportunity for the government, which is having to bail out the banking system, to acquire bankrupt assets on behalf of the mostly indigenous people. But that would mean

the destruction of many of the groups, Chinese and indigenous, that prospered under President Suharto.

None of the main party leaders is offering detailed economic proposals. Few may appreciate the extent of the problems to be faced. The economy may be bottoming out, but the debt burden will hobble all governments for years to come — not a bright prospect for Indonesian democracy.

The run-up to the election reveals a society developing its political system under intense economic pressure. Despite the recession, most politicians have an international outlook, and have a stake in ensuring that the economic and social gains under Mr. Suharto are not erased by political turmoil.

Indonesia is trying to progress to the point where unity is fostered by participation, not authoritarianism. Weak consensus government would be a problem, but a lesser problem than the violent divides so often forecast for the post-Suharto era.

—International Herald Tribune

Japanese Politics Is Falling Victim to Voter Alienation

By E. J. Dionne Jr.

TOKYO — A revolt against old parties, spurred by a sluggish economy and voter alienation from the system, is creating an upheaval in Japanese politics.

To talk about a Japanese voter revolt is strange, since the cautious, consensus-building Liberal Democratic Party has governed Japan with only a brief interruption since 1955. The party that presided over Japan's emergence as a world economic power defines the political establishment.

It forged iron bonds among

big business and a powerful government bureaucracy. Japanese politics flowed from "a stream of personal relations," said Yasuhiro Shiozaki, a Liberal Democratic member of Japan's upper house of Parliament. The Liberal Democratic Party "is a kind of small village in the countryside." Everybody knows everybody's business and remembers, sometimes fondly, all the old brawls. Corruption scandals could be survived as long as the economy was good.

But the village is now threatened. The end of the Cold War and the decline of the old Japanese left mean majorities no longer repair automatically to the Liberal Democratic Party, or LDP, as a safe haven of controlled capitalist stability. Japan's long recession breeds questions about the cozy system of interlocking elites and bureaucratic authority.

Heretical thoughts are the new orthodoxy. "The myth that the Japanese civil service is the

finest in the world is collapsing," said Takashi Kosegi, a former education minister and LDP parliamentarian. What is under challenge, said Yoshino Sengoku, an official of the opposition Democratic Party, is "the closed nature of Japanese society."

Protest voting — for Japan's Communist Party and, on occasion, for celebrities — is on the rise. Urban voters are especially alienated from the old system. Both trends came together on Sunday, when Shintaro Ishihara, an outspoken nationalist running as an independent, won election as the new governor of Tokyo. The LDP candidate ran fourth.

Membership in other traditional institutions, including both business groups and labor unions, is on the decline. Takashi Yoshii, executive vice president of Nippon Steel and leader of Japan's big business group, the Keidanren, noted that the only two parties with firm bases of support are the Communists and the religiously based Clean Government Party, the Komeito.

Yet the LDP hangs on, adapting itself to whatever the political market seems to demand.

And Japanese voters are understandably ambivalent about change. The economic miracle is now in trouble, but it was a

miracle nonetheless. Japan's egalitarian policies have created a good life for most. The party trying to supplant the LDP, the Democratic Party, is attempting to capture the ambivalence. The slogan of this recently created amalgam of smaller parties and LDP defectors — "building a free and secure society" — promises to maximize the opportunities that might flow from loosening things up while minimizing the risks of change.

Its leaders square another circle by praising two rather different British politicians, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair. Eisai Ito, the Democratic Party's vice president, explained that the party seeks "a viable combination" of their policies by creating a free market with a stronger social "safety net."

The Democrats' hope is that the LDP will eventually split and help them create a modified two-party system. But Banri Kaieda, a Democratic Party member of Parliament, conceded that since "power is the glue holding the LDP together," it will not break up until it loses power — the very calamity it is so skilled at avoiding.

So Japan is pregnant with the possibility of big change, yet no one knows how it will happen or how much of it the country really wants.

The Washington Post

Will Microsoft Share Its Secrets?

By David Ignatius

WASHINGTON — With Microsoft and the U.S. Justice Department closeted off somewhere trying to settle their antitrust suit, the word from Microsoft headquarters is that the company is exploring whether to release to the world the source code for the next generation of its operating system, Windows 2000.

"There have been discussions of what 'open source' might mean for Windows," one Microsoft executive confirmed. He stressed that the software giant was far from making any decision to give away its trademark product. And he noted that while open licensing would be done for business reasons, to assist software developers who want to innovate with Windows.

Still, it is obvious that a Microsoft decision to share the Windows source code — the original instructions written by the programmers who created it — with other software developers would go a long way toward resolving the issues at the heart of the antitrust suit.

Whatever comes of Microsoft's discussions, the fact that the Scrooge McDuck of software is debating whether to share its secrets is a stunner. Historians will note that if Microsoft ever does release the source code for Windows — whether on its own or compelled by the Justice Department — it will be due in part to the dogged efforts of a cyber-giant named Eric Raymond.

Mr. Raymond is the leader of what is known as the "Open Source" movement, an under-

ground network of software developers who are dedicated to producing free, communally maintained operating systems like Unix and Linux.

Mr. Raymond is best known for a 1997 treatise called "The Cathedral and the Bazaar," which is his movement's equivalent of the Communist Manifesto. It likened the Microsoft approach to software — with thousands of developers writing and debugging ever more elaborate programs — to the process of building a medieval cathedral. A far more efficient approach, Mr. Raymond argued, would be to open up construction to the hundreds of thousands of programmers who make up the Internet bazaar.

Support for his theories came in January 1998, when Netscape announced that it would release the source code for its Navigator browser. A top Netscape executive e-mailed Mr. Raymond soon after to say: "Your thinking and writings were fundamental inspirations to our decision."

Mr. Raymond argues that it is silly to try to control ownership of most software, because it is so easy to copy and because it prevents the kind of easy interaction among developers that will make the software better, quicker.

His model for how the world should work is the Unix operating system, which will run on virtually any kind of machine and has been debugged so thoroughly over

more than two decades that it is amazingly robust. Unix and a follow-on known as Linux have evolved organically, like a giant beehive, with different users making modifications to suit their needs.

Microsoft executives insist that despite their reputation as a closed shop, they have long made their code available to some big universities, research labs and partner companies.

The question now, Microsoft executives suggest, is whether the industry is evolving so rapidly that it makes sense to provide code for their next big release, Windows 2000, to software developers so they can quickly adapt it to their needs. In such a world, Microsoft presumably would make its money chiefly by selling specific proprietary applications and services.

Microsoft executives have been studying carefully what happened to Netscape after it made that move a year ago by releasing its browser code. They find the results discouraging.

One Microsoft executive cites a public resignation letter posted two weeks ago by Janis Zawinski, the Netscape manager who had supervised the open-source collaborative project. "The fact is, there has been very little contribution from people who don't work for Netscape," Mr. Zawinski wrote. He said the project "has become too depressing, and too painful, for me to continue."

The same fate could befall Microsoft if it tried to share its crown jewels with the world.

The Washington Post

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OPINION/LETTERS

In Clinton Contempt Case, Judge Is Legally Wrong

By Nathan Lewin

WASHINGTON — In her electrifying announcement that she will punish President Bill Clinton for civil contempt because he gave "false, misleading and evasive answers" during the deposition taken by Paula Jones's lawyers, Judge Susan Webber Wright of Federal District Court was right on the facts, but wrong on the law. If Mr. Clinton chooses to appeal her ruling, he should win.

Why? Civil contempt does not apply in this case. Since the Jones lawsuit, which charged Mr. Clinton with sexual misconduct, has been settled, the president may be sanctioned only under the rules that govern criminal proceedings.

And if he were charged with criminal contempt, Mr. Clinton would presumably be entitled — as Susan McDougal in her trial on obstruction of justice and criminal contempt — to a jury trial and other protections, including the requirement that his guilt be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. These protections may not be evaded by classifying an after-the-fact punitive contempt finding as "civil."

Federal law gives judges circumscribed powers to punish parties, witnesses or lawyers during a court case in order to make the wheels of justice run smoothly. If a witness refuses to testify, the judge may threaten and then actually imprison him or her. That is "civil" contempt — traditionally viewed as jailing in which, in the often-quoted words of a federal court almost a century ago, the prisoner "carries the keys of his prison in his own pocket."

If he complies with the court's order and testifies, he is freed. Criminal contempt, however, looks to the past, not the future. It is punishment for what the witness did or failed to do. Judge Wright said Monday that she had to impose the contempt sanction because Mr. Clinton "deliberately violated this court's discovery orders and thereby undermined the integrity of the judicial system."

Punishment was needed, she added, "not only to redress the president's misconduct, but to deter others who might themselves consider emulating the president of the United States by engaging in misconduct that undermines the

integrity of the judicial system." Punishment, however, is the function of a criminal court, not of a civil court decree that keeps a case (or an investigation) moving along. The rule of civil procedure that Judge Wright invoked — Rule 37(b)(2) — makes it clear that her authority to impose civil contempt sanctions persists only so long as her court is one "in which the action is pending."

The Paula Jones case is, of course, no longer "pending" in her court. The president's lawyers settled the case, for \$850,000, in November. And Judge Wright's contempt order is not intended to obtain any future testimony or future discovery of documents. Hence her power to exercise civil contempt authority is gone.

Mrs. McDougal's case is a textbook example of the difference between civil and criminal contempt. After she refused to answer the questions of Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, about Whitewater, she went to jail, but the keys to her freedom were in her pocket. Had she testified, she would have been released.

Only a criminal contempt charge could punish her for refusing to testify. Once the criminal contempt accusation was filed, she became entitled to a trial by jury and to all the safeguards guaranteed by the criminal process.

The independent counsel's office could not simply invoke "civil" contempt and thereby punish her for what she had done in the past — even if the punishment's purpose was, in Judge Wright's words, "to redress misconduct" and "to deter others" who might consider emulating her disobedience.

In the Monica Lewinsky case, Judge Wright can no longer punish Mr. Clinton.

It is generally agreed that a sitting president cannot be prosecuted on criminal charges. Short of a plea bargain, the only choice is to wait until 2001, when Mr. Starr may seek an indictment. An unsatisfying resolution perhaps, but the only legally sound one.

The writer was the lawyer for Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d in an independent counsel investigation conducted in 1987 and 1988. He contributed this comment to *The New York Times*.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Serbs as Europeans

At least the current conflict over Kosovo has taught us a few valuable lessons on the Serbian people.

First, everybody thought the Serbs were a savage ignorant people whose hate of Western nations and values would equate, for instance, that of the people of Iraq during the Gulf War.

Then what did we see on our television screens? People who have a high degree of culture and who naturally resent attacks on their homes and who care for their children. In a word, normal people.

They are not the problem — their leader is. It is totally abnormal that one man could lead them to hate their friends and neighbors belonging to different ethnic groups and support such an outrageous and inhuman operation against Kosovo Albanian civilians, who are, after all, the sole legitimate owners of Kosovo.

The Serbs are not fanatical fanatics. They are Europeans with a European state of mind and hopes for their future and their children's.

That is why they should take this opportunity to embrace the values of democracy and human rights which lie at the heart of all European institutions by turning their backs on the man who has betrayed and used them for personal power purposes — Slobodan Milosevic, who belongs so much less in his

comfortable presidential palace in Belgrade than in the dock of the Hague tribunal.

Even though the present could not be more difficult for them, the Serbs ought to realize that Operation Allied Force is something that they, too, have a lot to gain from if they wish.

BERNARD HENRY, Garches, France.

About Mrs. Nabokov

Regarding "Behind the Mask of Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov" (Books, April 8):

I enjoyed reading the good review of Susan Schiffrin's book "Vera (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)." I am curious, however, as to where Vladimir Nabokov's eye was "roving." In search of help because he was about to be shot by his gun-toting wife?

I have it on pretty good authority that, while she had done some target shooting in her youth, Vera Nabokov did not carry concealed weapons. Nor, as has been reported, was she the seeing-eye dog for a blind Vladimir. And she seems to have carried the secret of her 1934 pregnancy to her urn.

There is no question that the 65-year-old, six-foot-five woman occasionally glimpsed on Swiss streets is none other than the Russian hockey forward Dmitri Nabokov, recently traded by the Chicago Hawks to their Montreal farm team. But even he knows that

"Lolita" was first published in the United States by Putnam in 1955, not 1955.

DMITRI NABOKOV, Montreux, Switzerland.

Looser Baseball Pants

In the comment on Joe DiMaggio (The Allure of DiMaggio, March 10) he was described as follows: "As stylish off the field as on, he was an icon of elegance and success." This was well supported by the action photograph which accompanied the announcement of his death.

I am British, so no baseball specialist, but I am a keen observer of, and commentator on, style. The baseball uniforms of DiMaggio's heyday included stylish loose trousers — Chinese length — surely more elegant and comfortable than today's tight-fitting hose, particularly if you are as sturdy as the Mark McGwire of this world.

To honor DiMaggio, maybe baseball fashions could change? CHERRY BARNETT, Hong Kong.

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'The Essence of Greekness,' So Far Away From Home

By Jeff Jacoby

ATHENS — 1821. Greeks are fighting for their independence. In Athens, they besiege the Acropolis, a stronghold of the Turkish occupiers. As the siege grinds on, the Turks' ammunition runs short.

They begin to dismantle sections of the Parthenon, prying out the 2,300-year-old lead clamps and melting them down for bullets. The Greek fighters, horrified

at this defacement of their patrimony, send the Turks a supply of bullets. Better to arm their foes, they decide, than to let the ancient temple come to harm.

It is an extraordinary and unexampled gesture of self-sacrifice.

But then, the Parthenon is a unique masterpiece of Western culture. Constructed in the 5th century B.C. as a shrine to Athena, goddess of war and patron of Athens, it is the acme of classical Greek architecture and sculpture, the greatest monument of the Age of Pericles. There is no more storied building in Europe. No Greek could see it vandalized and fail to protest.

And yet by 1821 just such a slander — that the ransacking of the Parthenon would leave Greeks unfazed — was already in circulation.

Five years earlier and 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) away, a committee of the British Parliament had held hearings on the huge collection of sculptures and bas-reliefs that Robert Bruce, the seventh Earl of Elgin, had removed from the Parthenon and shipped to England. These Elgin Marbles, so called, were being offered for sale to the British Museum, and there were questions about how Lord Elgin — the former British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire — had acquired them.

One committee member asked Lord Elgin's deputy, Philip Hunt: "Was any opposition shown by any class of the natives?"

"None," Mr. Hunt replied, and for 180 years that lie has endured. In taking what he took, the argument goes, Lord Elgin performed a great service — he saved the sculptures from indifferent Greeks and primitive Turks who

did not appreciate them and would not have given them the care they required.

But no Greek or Turk — or Roman or Crusader, for that matter — ever treated the Parthenon as brutally as Lord Elgin and his minions did.

The travel writer Edward Daniel Clarke happened to be on the Acropolis one day in September 1802, when Lord Elgin's men detached a large sculptured slab (called a metope) from the temple's outer frieze.

He wrote: "One of the workmen came to inform Don Battista" — Giovanni Battista Lusieri, the painter Lord Elgin had hired to oversee the plundering of the sculptures — "that they were then going to lower one of the metopes. We saw this fine piece of sculpture raised from its station between the triglyphs; but... a part of the adjoining masonry was loosened by the machinery; and down came the fine masses of Pentelic marble, scattering their white fragments with thundering noise among the ruins."

The Turkish military governor, Mr. Clarke noted, "beheld the mischief done to the building, took his pipe from his mouth, dropped a tear, and in a suppliant tone of voice said to Mr. Lusieri, 'Telos.' (It is finished.)"

Lord Elgin's booty remains in the British Museum; for nearly two centuries, conscientious Britons have lamented his theft. In April 1996, a TV poll asked Britons whether the Elgin Marbles should be returned. Of 99,340 people who took part in the poll, 92.5 percent voted in favor of the proposal. Last fall, another poll found that Britons supported the return of the marbles by greater than a 2-to-1 ratio.

It is time to set right an old wrong and return these works to their birthplace. "Understand what the Parthenon Marbles mean to us," Melina Mercouri, the late renowned actress and Greek minister of culture, pleaded in 1986. "They are our pride. They are our sacrifice. They are our noblest symbol of excellence. They are a tribute to the democratic philosophy."

"They are the essence of Greekness."

The Boston Globe.

BOOKS

TAKING LIVES

By Michael Pye. 295 pages. \$23. Alfred A. Knopf.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

IN the 1975 Antonioni film "The Passenger," a disaffected journalist exchanges identities with a man he finds dead in a hotel room, and soon finds himself pursued by the man's wife, friends and enemies. A similar premise underlies Michael Pye's engaging new novel, "Taking Lives," a philosophical thriller about a serial killer who takes on his victims' identities.

As in Pye's accomplished 1996 novel, "The Drowning Room," we are introduced to a curiously amoral and opportunistic protagonist whose identity is constructed around a secret. And as in that earlier novel, we are plunged into a sinister world whose glittering surface, detailed by Pye in spare but painterly detail, belies its shadowy mechanics.

The killing spree at the heart of this novel starts innocently enough. Young Martin Arkenhout, a Dutch foreign exchange student, is bumming around Florida with an American teenager named Seth Goodman. When their rented car breaks down Seth tries to flag down help, but he is struck by a passing car and left a bloody pulp by the side of the road. Martin checks to see if Seth is still breathing and then unaccountably takes a rock and strikes him in the head to finish him off. He switches watches with Seth, appropriates his credit cards and papers and takes off. The police will mistakenly identify the dead body as that of Martin Arkenhout.

Martin, meanwhile, has settled down to college life as Seth Goodman in New York City, where he becomes a habitué of the downtown art scene. There he meets an awkward rich man named John Gaul who tells him that he has just inherited a big, pink house in the Ba-

hamas. Seth (that is, Martin) files this information away, and when Seth's parents insist on seeing him, he decides it's time to move on. He will dispose of John Gaul and appropriate his life. Gaul, he figures, is a misfit, an outsider, a man without roots or family or friends. He will not be missed.

"Arkenhout thinks he can kill, probably," Pye writes. "The boundaries weakened when he took a rock to Seth Goodman's head. Besides, it will be Seth Goodman's crime, and he will not be Seth Goodman anymore."

Seth/Martin coolly murders Gaul, moves into his Bahama credit. In time, as he grows restless, eager to reinvent himself, he will murder others — always men he can reasonably impersonate, always men with "a lack of mooring to the ordinary, crushing rhythms of practical life."

"Martin had always been the winner," Pye writes, "the man who knew how to reinvent himself perpetually. Faust with no need for some cramping contract with any passing devil. He did what other men just dream of doing, which is to change all the incidentals and take with him, life after life, only what's essential."

And then he makes a mistake. On the run from police (who are curious about an expired visa), Martin is forced to pick a new mark quickly. He selects a professor named Christopher Hart, an art historian who is about to head off to Portugal on sabbatical. This Hart, however, has his own secret past. He has stolen 15 illuminated planes from a rare 17th-century book belonging to a London museum, and the museum has appointed one of its curators, John Michael Snell Costa, to track them down. The two men are soon engaged in a dangerous game of cat and mouse, a game in which none of the usual rules of fair play apply.

It is Costa who narrates the remainder of "Taking Lives," piecing together the

story of Martin Arkenhout from his own encounters with the man, from police reports and from the testimony of others who have crossed his path. Costa, it quickly becomes clear, has his own identity problems and his own reasons for wanting to run away from his life — developments that not only help Pye to underscore the dialectic in this novel between roots and rootlessness, home and abroad, stasis and flux.

Certainly there are far too many coincidences between Costa's story and Arkenhout's story for the reader to continue to suspend disbelief. Not only do both men end up within miles of each other in the Portuguese countryside, but both also turn out to be involved with the same woman. Both men also spark the interest of a local police captain who seems to have had a mysterious relationship with Costa's father.

What enables the reader to overlook these fiery-rigged developments — and even the novel's contrived ending — is Pye's ability to combine psychological insight with Hitchcockian suspense and vivid novelistic descriptions. Pye conjures up Nassau for the reader as a collection of houses in "the colors of coconut ice and sherberts," and a seedy Vietnamese restaurant in SoHo as "an Edward Hopper café except for the paper lanterns, and the green lights in the fish tanks in the window." The sky glimpsed from an airplane strikes Costa as "a baroque, sentimental sky that ought to have fat, pink cherubs lolling about," while tourists in a Portuguese village look as if they were "trying to make their green guides fit the sights."

Such oddly palpable details anchor the more unbelievable aspects of the story line in a tactile foreground, and combined with Pye's storytelling verve, they make for an entertaining, if not entirely satisfying, read.

New York Times Service

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

ONE of America's finest players, Edward Manfield of Philadelphia, died of a heart attack at 55, shortly after returning from the Spring National Championships in Vancouver, British Columbia.

He won one world bridge title and 11 national ones, including the Vanderbilt Teams. In 1979 he captured the Cavendish Invitational Teams with his regular partner, Kit Woolsey.

They were aided by the diagramed deal, on which Woolsey as West opened with a weak two-bid in spades. This suggested six spades, but the modern tendency is to take this

action with a strong five-card suit.

Against three no-trump, he led the spade four, an imaginative choice to provide for the possibility that his partner held a doubleton or singleton

honor. The right play for South was the ten from dummy, but that was not obvious, and he played low, winning in his hand with the king.

Preparing for the end position, he led a diamond to the ten. Manfield as East won with the jack and returned the suit. South won with the ace in dummy, cashed four club winners and reached the ending shown at left.

The declarer gave himself the best chance by leading the diamond two. Manfield took his three diamond winners and had to break the hearts. If he had led low, South would have played low and finessed the ten successfully. But he led the queen, and South fell into the trap.

After winning with the ace,

he finessed the ten, going down two. Perhaps he should have reasoned that Manfield would have led low with queen-jack-six.

WEST (3)
♠ A Q J 4 2
♥ J 4
♦ Q 9
♣ A K 2 2

SOUTH
♠ K 7 6 5
♥ K 10 5
♦ 8 7 4
♣ Q J 3 0

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:
West 2♠, North Pass, East 3NT, South Pass.

West led the spade four.

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TribTech

'Web Phone' Makers Duck Microsoft's Embrace

By Bruno Giussani
New York Times Service

LONDON — With the lid closed, the Ericsson R380, due to be released early next year, has the look and size of a standard mobile phone. But the keypad can be flipped to reveal a large display giving access to e-mail, organizer and World Wide Web functions.

So-called "Web phones" like this one have been around for a couple of years — remember the Nokia Communicator that was Val Kilmer's lifeline in "The Saint"? — but have never had broad appeal. Older models were too expensive, complicated and bulky. But the new models from companies like Nokia Corp. of Finland and LM Ericsson AB of Sweden are smaller and faster.

Just as a desktop computer needs an operating system like Windows to function, a Web phone needs its own specialized operating system. Symbian Ltd., a London-based software company, aims to dominate this market, and it has several giants of the phone and electronics industries on its side.

"In 2005, one-sixth of the world's population will have a mobile phone, and many of these will be data-enabled," said Colly Myers, Symbian's chief executive. "This will define a whole new networked economy, where the wireless information device is the consumer's 'physical portal' to a world of information and services."

The industry believes that these phones will be the first of a range of new mobile devices that in a few years time, with the help of new technologies, will make many innovative wireless services possible — including what might be called "mobile commerce."

Ranging from handheld computers to

"smart phones" of all shapes and sizes, the new devices will provide access to stock quotes, news headlines, weather reports, sports scores, bank accounts, music, pictures, e-mail — and of course the phone network.

Symbian was founded last summer to create a common software platform for wireless information devices. In a memo to employees last autumn, Bill

Gates, Microsoft Corp.'s chairman, singled out Symbian, a 10-month-old company with just 260 employees, as one of the greatest competitive threats to his corporate empire.

What worries Mr. Gates is Symbian's powerful parents: the phone manufacturers Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola Inc. and the British handheld-computer maker Psion PLC.

THE THREE phone makers together control more than two-thirds of today's global cell phone market. Other manufacturers like Philips Electronics NV of the Netherlands, and network operators like Japan's NTT Mobile Communications Network Inc., or DoCoMo, have already signed up to use Symbian's software. Following a recently announced alliance with Sun Microsystems Inc., Symbian's product will also support the Java programming language.

"Our goal is to become the standard for wireless information devices," Mr. Myers said.

If he succeeds, a large portion of these devices will run on Symbian software — which is based on the Epoc operating system

first developed by Psion for its successful line of tiny computers — and not on Microsoft's Windows CE operating system.

Both Nokia and Ericsson had been in talks with Microsoft, but then they took an offer made by David Potter, the chairman of Psion — arguably because Psion's software is better suited for the mobile device environment, but

also to avoid letting Microsoft get a stranglehold on the wireless data industry in the way it has a grip on PC manufacturers. Motorola joined the venture four months later.

Of course, Mr. Gates and other competitors have not been sitting by watching. "There are at least three alliances today that are trying to line up partners and capture a piece of the business," said Justine Heys, an analyst with Yankee Group Europe in London.

Microsoft has struck deals with British telecommunications PLC and the wireless technology company Qualcomm Inc., while 3Com Corp., the maker of the wildly successful Palm Pilot handheld computer, has teamed up with Alcatel SA of France.

"Symbian has clearly the strongest alliance to address this market," Mr. Heys said. "Epoc is very robust, uses little memory space, and its battery consumption is limited. It was designed for small devices, and Windows was not."

Some critics argue that Windows CE, a tiny version of the standard Windows operating system, is too slow to handle functions in which voices are processed in digital form, a claim the company rejects.

Amid all this competitive agitation, Juhani Christensen, Symbian's executive vice president, remains calm. "The market doesn't exist yet" for wireless data services, he said, because only a small percentage of cell phone owners have signed up for them. But Mr. Christensen is certain that the demand will build.

"We're betting on a self-fulfilling prophecy: that if everyone in the value chain believes it will happen, well, it will happen," he said.

ANALYSTS SAY that Symbian, which has been concentrating on working with the manufacturers of the mobile devices, needs to start doing more work with network operators and content providers, which are reluctant to provide information services for the devices until there is a sizable audience of potential users.

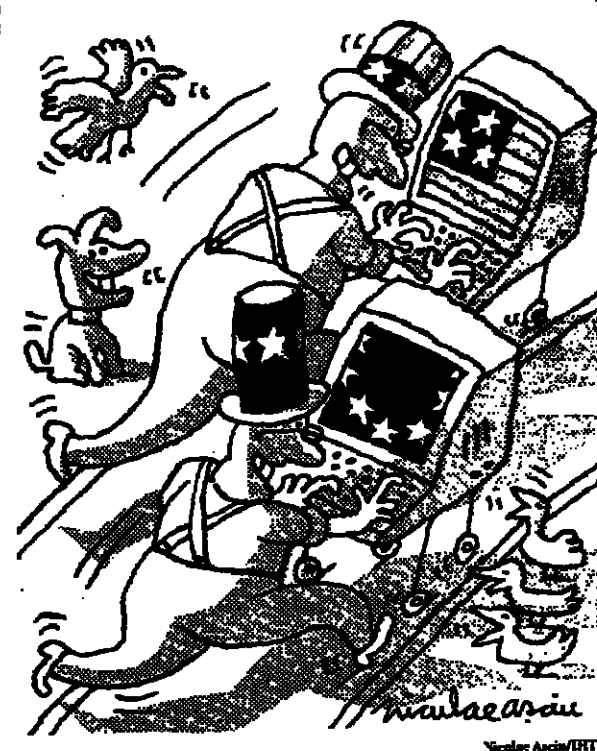
So far the use of mobile data has been slow to take off, mainly because available data speeds have been low. A speed of 9,600 bits per second, or one-fourth of the average fixed-line modem speed, is the current maximum transfer speed with the widely used GSM system. Mr. Myers said that new technology will help, dramatically increasing the available bandwidth, "but don't underestimate what you can do with 9,600 bits per second," he said.

"When people think bandwidth, they automatically think of the PC screen, which is a mistake," he said. "Phones work differently, and today's speed already gives users great capability for the applications they use most: e-mail, Internet and database access, and faxes."

"No doubt," he said, "that there is tremendous value now to get out of data-enabled cell phones."

Bill Gates has singled out Symbian Ltd. as one of the greatest competitive threats to his corporate empire.

ALT / Commentary



Europe Is Getting With the Program

High-Tech Savvy Is on the Rise

By Victoria Shannon
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Is Europe about to close the gap with the United States in information technology? Measured by computer use in company offices and government agencies, Internet connections in homes, and electronic commerce among and between them, Europe has long lagged the info-tech boom across the Atlantic.

Reasons abound to argue that the gap will remain — the disparity has been wide after all — but just lately I've felt a shift in the wind that portends a big change ahead.

The evidence is largely anecdotal and can easily be countered with any of the usual citations of Europe playing catch-up: a shortage of tech-savvy workers, the high expense of being on-line, a dearth of venture capital and a basic "bad attitude" about taking risks, for example.

And yet... something is afoot.

The phrase "a year ago" has become key. People are using that time frame to illustrate their perception of the change.

A year ago, cable modems were nonexistent in France; now, you can get broadband Internet access in Paris. A year ago, a journalist reported at a recent technology roundtable sponsored by Microsoft Corp., few of her European friends had an e-mail address. Now, many do.

A year ago, on-line banking was a distant reality and state-owned phone companies had just opened up to competition. Now, some European banks are offering free Internet access in return for on-line business, and phone subscribers in Germany and elsewhere can pick and choose their carriers.

International Data Corp., the technology research company, even headlined one study in February with the breathless exclamation that "The Internet Fully Arrives in Western Europe."

Well, not so fast. As in the early Web years in the United States, Internet users in Europe today are in a narrow demographic, IDC says: mostly male, well-educated, high-income, accessing the Net from home. That's not quite a "full" arrival.

STILL, PERSONAL computer sales in Western Europe rose more than 21 percent in 1998 from 1997, and by year's end the region had become the fastest-growing worldwide — a rate, however, that is not expected to be matched this year.

It may be that a "leapfrog" effect has finally taken hold: Europe has been able to bypass the experimental, if-it-doesn't-work-take-it-down approach of Web wizards in the United States; concentrate on models that succeed; borrow compelling concepts and avoid costly mistakes.

Voilà! European businesses and consumers can now turn to information technology that will actually help them.

When asked to rate Europe's ability to further close the information technology divide with the United States by 2005, with 1 being least likely and 10 most likely, the president of Microsoft Europe gave it a 6.5 at the forum last week.

"I believe that we have no other choice than making it happen," said Michel Lacombe, who heads the Paris-based Europe, Middle East and Africa division of the world's biggest software company. "It's a must."

He added: "I think that we will see new approaches coming to market that will make it easy for small and medium businesses to embrace technology. I think that the prices will continue to go down, therefore driving better penetration of those technologies."

Others echoed his sentiment. "A couple of years ago, I was hearing much more worse doom and gloom, and the gap was much, much bigger," said Steve Shipside, a British technology commentator and writer.

"I'm increasingly getting the feeling that the message is starting to get through" to CEOs, he said. "If they haven't gotten it yet, at least now they're starting to feel guilty about not knowing about it."

The hand-wringing among technologists goes on: about cross-border handicaps, about copyright policy, about tax issues.

So the gap is still here, no doubt about it. But IDC also says that while on-line business in Western Europe trailed the United States \$6 billion to \$31 billion in 1998, in four years that difference will narrow enormously to \$223 billion in Western Europe and \$291 billion in the United States.

I have my own personal evidence of the shifting winds. Eighteen months ago, when I asked France Telecom for an ISDN line in my apartment, I was met with blank stares. When I asked for a second phone line, and inquired about the possibility of a third, the France Telecom assistant said that I surely wanted to talk to her colleague, the small-business specialist.

The notion of a very-wired household was inconceivable then.

But two weeks ago, I was again in the phone company's offices, this time to cancel my second phone line because I now get my home Internet connection via a cable modem.

This time, the France Telecom assistant offered me a discount on my data calls, subscribed me to a service that sends data and faxes to my cell phone, and, best yet, was completely nonchalant about my requests.

The Internet may not have "fully arrived," but it's getting awfully close.

Victoria Shannon edits TribTech and can be e-mailed at tribtech@iht.com

Mouse in Hand, Millions Name Their Price

By Amy Harmon
and Leslie Kaufman
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — There was no question that Bill Rue, 37, a writer in Phoenix, Arizona, wanted the toy car, a childhood object that set off memories of 1969, when the Mets won the World Series and his parents bought their first color television. But it wasn't until he found himself bidding against an anonymous foe in an Internet auction one evening that he knew he must have it.

Mr. Rue, a real estate agent in New York, has no regrets about paying \$101 for a used toy that opened at \$9. And he is hardly alone in his embrace of the on-line auction. It is a phenomenon that in a matter of months has captivated bargain hunters and spawned a market for nostalgia. Millions of Web surfers are sweating silently at their computers, bidding electronically on things they have never seen, tendered by people they have never met.

While retailers continue to spend furiously to draw more customers on line, the Internet is teeming with buyers and sellers making their own markets. Items range from a 50-gallon fish tank (four goldfish included) to painted plaster hula girls to the 1987 Mercedes 300 turbo diesel that Bill Steinhour of northern Virginia landed with a \$5,800 bid.

Economists say the blossoming of on-line bidding is no surprise. Auctions are theoretically a very efficient form of commerce, the perfect nexus of the supply-and-demand curves. But they have traditionally been expensive to hold and limited in reach. The Internet solves both of those problems. Bidders are also relieved of the social

awkwardness and time-consuming nature of haggling face to face.

"You get the fun of outbidding someone, you get something glorious in the mail," said Robert Fela, 37, a writer in Phoenix, Arizona, who has acquired several Partridge Family albums via on-line auction in recent weeks. "It's become my favorite form of procrastination."

If buyers become hooked on cyberspace bargaining, the implications for the retail economy could be as wide reaching as the introduction of fixed pricing enabled by standardized production a century ago.

While on-line auction sales were a relatively small \$1.4 billion last year, some analysts see a future where everything is a negotiation, from heating oil to the chopped meat at the Internet grocery store.

"There is a building mind-set of, 'Hey, I can bid for things,'" said Kate Delhagen, a senior analyst at Forrester Research. "All this has the net effect that people start thinking that they can name their price."

In a report released last week, Forrester predicted that business-to-consumer interactions would account for 66 percent of a \$19 billion on-line auction market by 2003. Already, several sites such as *Onsale.com* and *firstauction.com* have created a hybrid form of auction retailer. They buy excess merchandise cheaply, particularly computer equipment, and resell it to the highest bidder.

Tickets for air travel are also widely up for bid through auction-like vendors such as *Priceline.com* Inc. But for now, most Web transactions are person-to-person through third-party auction houses. And the Web's central bazaar is a site maintained by eBay Inc., a San Jose, California, venture started in 1995,



Bill Steinhour landed his 1987 Mercedes 300 with a \$5,800 bid.

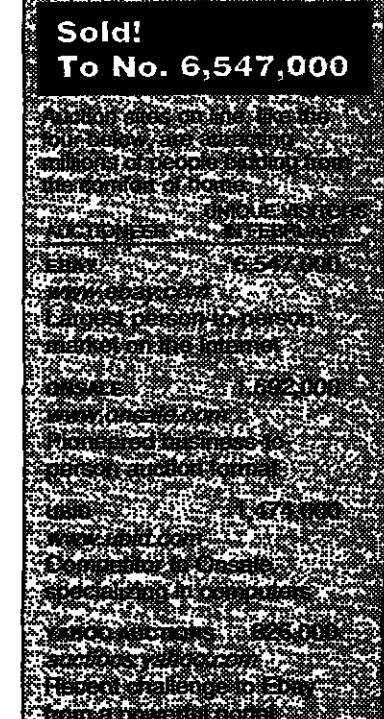
whose audience has recently surged to 6.5 million visitors a month.

THE COMPANY keeps no inventory and takes no responsibility for authenticity of the wares being showcased on its screens. It does take a variable percentage of each final bid, making it one of the few Internet ventures to be profitable.

The hands-off formula of eBay has raised concerns about fraud. There have been numerous instances where genuinely naive sellers have misrepresented their wares. Instances of outright theft, where buyers send off their checks and never receive their booty, although far

rarer, have also occurred. While eBay insists that 99.9 percent of the transactions on its site go off without a complaint, the U.S. government is investigating individual allegations of fraud. And eBay reached a settlement last month with the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs in which it agreed to take steps to weed out fraudulent sellers.

Still, consumers are voting with their wallets, and competitors are trying to cut in. Last month, the on-line bookseller Amazon.com Inc. opened its own auction house. Sotheby's and Christie's have said they will soon design to peddle by modem. And niche sites such as *gunbroker.com*, *planet bike* and *mobilia.com*, for car



Sold! To No. 6,547,000

buffs, are proliferating. A considerable part of the on-line auction crowd is made up of longtime collectors who buy and sell off-line as well. But the Web also seems to be igniting the collecting impulse.

For example, Stephanie Canode, 23, a nurse in Kanton, Ohio, recently began collecting My Little Ponies, which she remembers fondly from her childhood. After showing off her on-line finds, she must now contend for computer time with her father, who scours the auction boards for Zippo lighters; her mother, whose passion is Beanie Babies; and her brother, who recently went to a Nascar race with tickets he bought on eBay.com.

BRIEFLY

SURF WHILE YOU WORK OUT: It is no secret that Americans have short attention spans when it comes to exercise. Go to any gym, and people will be reading magazines and listening to music to keep themselves entertained on cardio machines.

Now health clubs are installing consoles on step machines and stationary bikes to allow users to surf the Internet, watch cable television, listen to CDs and call up past workout records.

Netpulse Communications Inc. of San Francisco started manufacturing the consoles in 1995, and they are available at about 300 fitness centers in the United States.

The Can Do Club in Wayne, New Jersey, is offering Netpulse on its exercise equipment. "Working out is tedious for a lot of people," said Steve Polevsky, chairman and chief executive of Can Do. "We want the exercise experience to be as pleasant as possible." (NIT)

PHONE WOES IN THAILAND: How hard could it be to buy a new cell phone? If you are a consumer in Thailand, it is no picnic.

In most countries, consumers simply pop their old

phone card into a new handset after paying a modest connection fee.

In Thailand, however, where the GSM market is controlled by two operators, overseen by state monopolies and regulated by antiquated laws, a phone replacement errand turns into a time-consuming and costly expedition. In addition to charging two to four times the handset price in Hong Kong, Singapore or Malaysia, few shops will even sell handsets without issuing a new telephone number.

Those few outlets selling handsets separately tend to offer a meager selection of

models or just one brand.

Buying a cheaper handset overseas is illegal and electronically blocked by the operators. Each handset must receive government approval, and purchasers of new handsets must surrender their old phone, fill in lengthy forms and show extensive identification papers.

This helps to explain why the illegal phone stalls in Mah Boon Khorng mall in Bangkok do such snappy business. Buying one of their reprogrammed handsets for one-third the official price may be tempting, but the longest guarantee offered to one recent window shopper was just seven days. (IHT)

U.S. AND EUROPE SPLIT ON DATA PRIVACY: President Bill Clinton's top trade adviser and the European Union were back at the table last week trying to hammer out their differences on data privacy protection.

Although progress was made, officials say, they remain deadlocked on issues of enforcement and whether consumers should have access to data that has been collected about them.

The U.S. government has been trying to convince the European Union for more than a year that its proposed framework for self-regulation and self-enforcement of data privacy practices are effective enough to meet a stringent new European Union privacy law. (NIT)

RACE TO BEAT ON-LINE MUSIC PIRATES: The race to set on-line

music standards is getting crowded. Microsoft Corp. has unveiled a system for playing and distributing songs over the Internet, while International Business Machines Corp. said it would incorporate technology from RealNetworks Inc. into a music distribution system.

The companies are competing with AT&T Corp., Liq Audio Inc. and others to offer an alternative to a popular technology called MP3, which makes it easy to distribute compact disc-quality music over the Internet without paying royalties.

The companies are vying for recording-industry approval. The Recording Industry Association of America organized a group to create standards by June for marking digital music so that it cannot be duplicated by bootleggers. (Bloomberg)



At the Can Do health club in Wayne, New Jersey, members can surf the Internet while they exercise.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN IN TECHNOLOGY PACT: The Russian Academy of Sciences inaugurated a joint high-technology venture with Japan this week.

The High Technology Center, to be based in Moscow, is intended to combine Russian and Japanese engineering know-how to produce high-tech goods. (AFP)

SENDING SPEECH: International Business Machines Corp. and Intel Corp. are joining dictation-machine makers to develop standards to broaden the use of speech on hand-held computing devices.

The coalition will decide how to digitally compress voice and transmit that information from one device to another. IBM said, allowing dictation-machine users to record a memo to be sent as electronic mail. (Bloomberg)

TECHNOLOGY INDEX			
Technology stock indexes around the world:			
	Tuesday close	Pct. change previous week	Pct. change year to date
North America			
Pacific Exchange Tech	509.03		+13.32
S&P Tech Composite	1,335.11		+14.29
Europe			
Morgan Stanley Eurotec	659.71		+8.06
Asia			
Topix Electric	1,952.80		+26.60
Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News			
For technology articles from the past week, see TribTech on the IHT's World Wide Web site at http://www.iht.com . Articles include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olivetti Profit Investors as Bid Wins Support, April 8 • Internet Blindie Investors, April 9 • Telecom Italia Set to Reinforce Its Defenses, April 9 • Big Future Seen for Bargain 'Virtual Ads,' April 9 • Melissa: Catchy, but Graffiti Art, April 10-11 • China Internet Firms Link Up, April 10-11 • Compaq Cuts Prices in Japan, April 12 • Aviation Computer Passes Y2K Test, April 14 			
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ASIA/PACIFIC

Timor Leader Accuses Army Of Torpedoing Peace Efforts

The Associated Press

JAKARTA — The imprisoned East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao urged his followers again Wednesday to defend themselves against attacks by pro-Indonesian militiamen and accused the Indonesian military of trying to sabotage peace efforts.

In a statement, Mr. Gusmao ignored calls by the Indonesian government to retract his recent call for an insurrection in the former Portuguese colony.

The government has said that Mr. Gusmao, who is under house arrest in Jakarta to allow him greater involvement in peace talks, might be returned to prison because of the remarks.

Mr. Gusmao had urged separatist guerrillas to step up attacks because of escalating violence between supporters and opponents of independence in East Timor. Last week, pro-Indonesian militiamen killed villagers at a church compound in the town of Liquica.

Religious leaders said at least 25 people died in one of the worst attacks in East Timor in years.

"I am obliged to continue to ask that the defenseless people of East Timor refuse to allow themselves to be slaughtered like animals," Mr. Gusmao said.

He said the Liquica massacre was carried out to disrupt UN-sponsored talks between Indonesia and Portugal, which the United Nations still considers East Timor's administering power.

President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia has said Jakarta will allow East Timor independence if its people reject an autonomy offer in a UN-supervised ballot in July, but there are concerns that unrest might delay the vote.

In East Timor on Wednesday, a mob of pro-Indonesian activists attacked separatist activists and damaged houses, the police said.

Colonel Muafi Sahudji, the deputy police chief in the territory, said about 250 people took part in the attack in the town of Maliana, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Mr. Gusmao said the Indonesian military, which has provided training to some militias, was behind much of the recent violence.

"I know that it will keep on supporting the militias as part of the inhumane plan devised by the Indonesian generals to destroy the East Timorese people," he said.

Military commanders have denied accusations of involvement in the unrest and have said that pro-independence activists have initiated many attacks.

Habibie Reaffirms June Voting

President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia said Wednesday that parliamentary elections will go ahead as scheduled on June 7 despite doubts about the nation's preparedness, The Associated Press reported.

Mr. Habibie, who took office after President Suharto quit amid riots and protests last year, said he was also willing to leave office if the Indonesian people wanted him to do so, but only through constitutional means.

In an interview published Wednesday by the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, Mr. Suharto suggested that the ballot might have to be postponed.

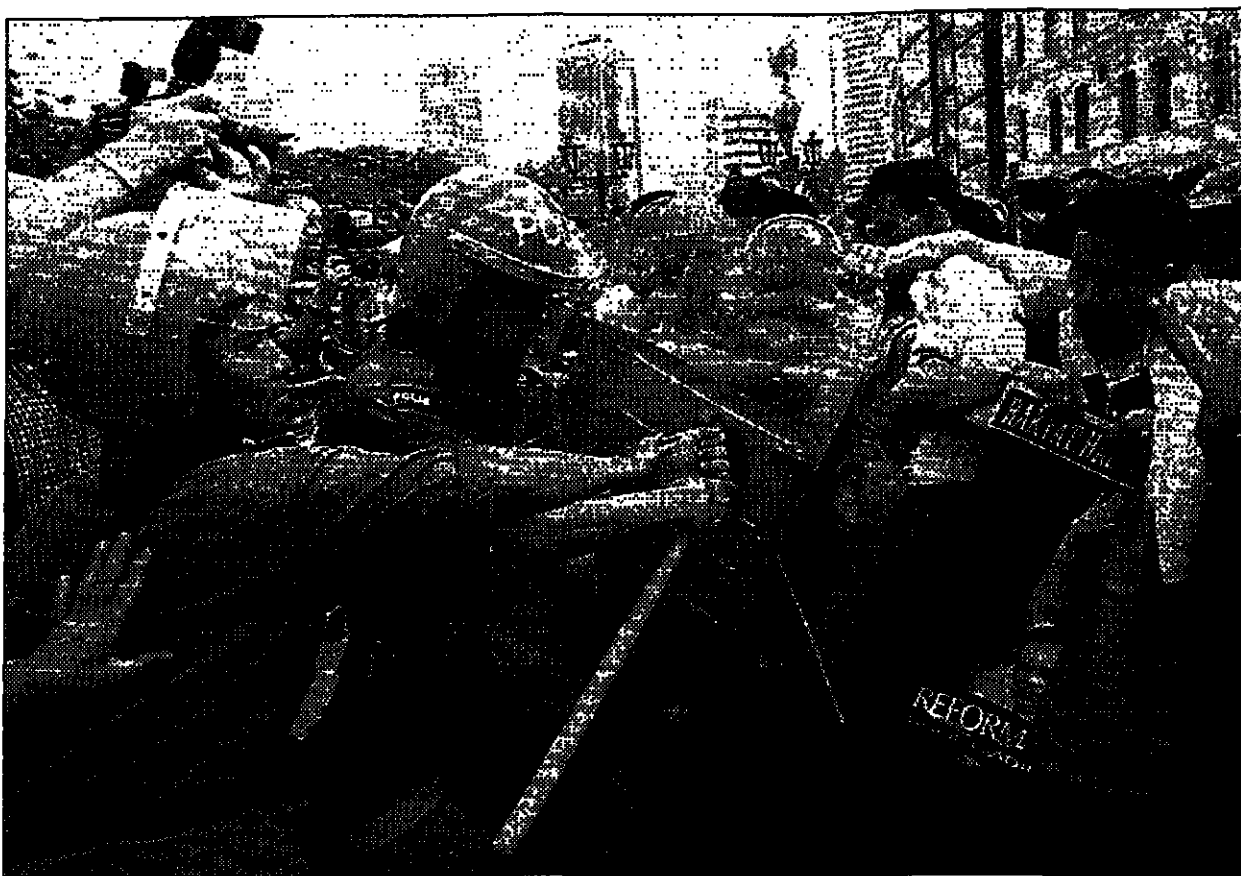
Hundreds of students protested near the Parliament building Tuesday, demanding that the election be called off. Unhappy with the scope and pace of democratic reform, they called on Mr. Habibie to quit and for a transitional government to enact sweeping political changes.

Speaking to Southeast Asian newspaper editors, Mr. Habibie said he expected the election to be fair and democratic.

He said that international electoral monitors had been invited to Indonesia and that their safety would be guaranteed.

Mr. Habibie did not directly address Mr. Suharto's comments, but said, "Do you want a fair election or an election full of manipulation?"

"I don't want any injustice," he said, "because we are being watched by the world."



Malaysian riot police battling protesters in Kuala Lumpur after the Anwar verdict was announced Wednesday.

ANWAR: After Sentencing, Riots Break Out in Kuala Lumpur

Continued from Page 1

The judgment against Mr. Anwar provoked anger overseas as well, where the trial has become a referendum on political freedom in Malaysia. Amnesty International condemned the verdict as a pretext to remove Mr. Anwar from public life, while some foreign leaders — notably President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines — expressed concern about the Malaysian judicial system. (Page 10)

Mr. Anwar himself reacted calmly to the verdict, gesturing to his lawyers and a family member not to lose their composure. But he repeated his assertion that he was the target of a political conspiracy engineered by his former mentor, Mr. Mahathir.

"I've been sentenced with a judgment that stinks to high heaven," Mr. Anwar said from his dock in the spare courtroom here.

His troubles began in 1997 when anonymous allegations about illicit sexual and homosexual activities began circulating in the Malaysian press. At first, Mr. Mahathir dismissed the reports and told Mr. Anwar to ignore them. But later, the Malaysian police began to investigate the reports.

While Mr. Anwar's reputation was under fire, he also began clashing with Mr. Mahathir about how to respond to the Asian financial crisis. Mr. Anwar, who was also finance minister, favored keeping the markets open and heeding to the International Monetary Fund's remedy for curing Malaysia's economy.

Mr. Mahathir, notorious for blaming the financier George Soros and other foreign currency traders for Asia's economic woes, wanted to shield his coun-

try by erecting barriers to foreign investment and currency exchange.

Last Sept. 1, the prime minister imposed sweeping controls on Malaysia's markets and, the next day, he dismissed Mr. Anwar. Three weeks later, after he led a rally of 40,000 against the government, Mr. Anwar was arrested on charges of having had homosexual affairs and trying to quash a police investigation of them.

On Sept. 29, Mr. Anwar appeared at his arraignment with a black eye and bruised face, prompting foreign as well as domestic criticism. In a speech in Kuala Lumpur in November, the U.S. vice president, Al Gore, publicly rebuked Malaysia for suppressing political freedoms.

A former police chief has admitted that he beat Mr. Anwar after his arrest.

The trial itself was marked by a mixture of lurid evidence and judicial reversals. Early in the proceedings, prosecutors paraded a mattress said to contain semen stains from Mr. Anwar through the court. But later, after several of the men who had accused Mr. Anwar of sodomizing them recanted their confessions, Judge Paul amended the charges so that the government had to prove only that Mr. Anwar had hindered a police investigation.

He acknowledged that while he was deputy prime minister he called police officers to his residence to express concern about the charges made against him. But he denied that he forced anyone to recant.

The political movement that Mr. Anwar was building before his arrest has lost much of its momentum during the trial. And with its leader barred from

Parliament until 2010 — a person given a jail sentence of more than a year is ineligible to run for five years after his release — it is unclear whether the movement will regain traction.

Mr. Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail, recently formed a political party to challenge Mr. Mahathir's governing coalition.

Speaking after the verdict Wednesday, Mrs. Azizah said, "We still maintain Anwar is innocent and is the victim of a political conspiracy." Her voice cracked briefly, she pledged to carry on her husband's campaign.

Opponents of the government said the verdict would galvanize Malaysians, who followed the trial with mounting, if silent, disapproval. The anti-government groups are focusing on unseating Mr. Mahathir's party in parliamentary elections, which must be held by June 2000.

"There's been a tremendous erosion of support in the political community, and this decision will further erode that support," said Chandra Muzaffar, the vice president of Mrs. Azizah's National Justice Party.

But other analysts said that Malaysia's faltering economy had fanned the unhappiness of people toward the government. And with signs that Malaysia is recovering from its recession, it is doubtful that a large number — let alone a majority — of people here will continue to call for Mr. Mahathir's ouster. He has been prime minister for 18 years.

Mr. Mahathir, 73, who is recovering from a lung infection, has not commented on the verdict. But his new deputy, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, called on people to accept the judgment and not riot.

Keep Up Fight, Estrada Urges Anwar

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — The president of the Philippines joined human rights groups on Wednesday in denouncing the conviction of Malaysia's former deputy prime minister and his sentence of six years in prison.

President Joseph Estrada called Anwar Ibrahim's conviction on four corruption charges "very unfortunate" and said he hoped that Mr. Anwar might be cleared on appeal.

"My message is, keep on fighting," Mr. Estrada said. "If he's not really guilty, the truth will come out in the end. The truth will free him."

Mr. Estrada was the first Asian politician to comment on the verdict and sentence, which were criticized by human rights groups.

Amnesty International, calling Mr. Anwar a prisoner of conscience, said the verdict reflected a "disturbing pattern of misuse of law and of state institutions by the Malaysian executive for political purposes."

"The prison gates may have been shut today on Anwar Ibrahim but the public debate about human rights and political

freedoms that his case has generated in Malaysia cannot be so easily silenced," Amnesty International said.

Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, said that he hoped that the appeals process would reflect the principles of natural justice, due process and the rule of law.

A Thai government spokesman, Akapol Sorasuchart, said that there was no official comment but added, "If this court's procedures are unjust, the international community will cry out."

Britain's foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said in London that aspects of the trial "give real cause for concern, in particular, the relationship between the executive and the judiciary in Malaysia."

He said that he was writing to Mr. Anwar's wife to express his sympathy.

The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, which like many similar groups watched Mr. Anwar's seven-month trial closely, said that it was not surprised by the verdict.

"All indications are that the charges were brought as part of a politically motivated campaign against Mr. An-

war," the Lawyers Committee said in a statement.

Mark Daly, a lawyer who attended part of the trial on behalf of Amnesty International, said, "Anyone daring to dissent or express themselves contrary to the government line is a target of the government apparatus."

Mr. Daly said that he had been deeply disturbed by reported comments by President Mahathir bin Mohamed during the trial that the president believed his former protégé to be guilty.

John Malott, the U.S. ambassador to Malaysia until his retirement last year, also criticized the verdict. "The decision was made to get him, and he's been got," Mr. Malott said. "It's outrageous."

Japan, meanwhile, said it had no plans to change its aid policy toward Malaysia following Mr. Anwar's conviction.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials declined to comment on the sentencing of Mr. Anwar.

Last October, Japan announced a \$30 billion Asian aid package, of which Malaysia is a recipient, with Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines and Thai-

Government in India Fights to Hold Power

By Pamela Constable

Washington Post Service

NEW DELHI — The government lost its majority in Parliament on Wednesday, leaving the country facing a period of political uncertainty just as India and its neighboring rival Pakistan have conducted tit-for-tat nuclear missile tests. The governing party, facing an immediate vote of confidence in Parliament on Thursday, scrambled late into the night to secure enough votes to survive.

At virtually the same moment Wednesday morning, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was informed both that Jayalalitha Jayaram, a mercurial coalition partner, had pulled her 18 members of Parliament out of the government and that Pakistan had successfully fired its Ghauri-2 ballistic missile over the southern Pakistani desert.

India tested its Agni-2 ballistic missile Monday, and the prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, immediately warned that his government would have a "befitting" response. Last May, the two countries conducted a series of nuclear tests, raising international fears of a nuclear arms race, but Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Sharif have since met and agreed to work toward resolving their differences.

Some diplomats and analysts said Wednesday that they believed that Mr. Vajpayee could eke out enough support from various small parties, including a local rival of Miss Jayaram, to remain in power. On Wednesday night, President K.R. Narayanan, called for a vote of confidence in the Lower House, the Lok Sabha, when it opens its session Thursday, and leaders of the governing Bharatiya Janata Party insisted that they would be able to prove their majority on the floor.

"We will accept this challenge," a party spokesman, Venkaiah Naidu, told reporters late Wednesday, as Mr. Vajpayee prepared for yet another round of meetings with politicians from various parties. "We will defeat the game plan of our rivals." The spokesman called Miss Jayaram's withdrawal an "act of betrayal" and part of a "destabilizing conspiracy" by the party's major opponent, the Congress (I) Party.

But opposition leaders, asserting that the Vajpayee government had lost its credibility, demanded Wednesday that the prime minister resign. The leader of the Congress Party, Sonia Gandhi, was set to meet with Miss Jayaram, a South Indian party boss who swept into the capital Monday with an entourage of aides in an open bid to form a new government with Mr. Vajpayee's rivals.

"The government has no moral, constitutional and political right to continue in office," said Arjun Singh, a Congress spokesman. "We don't want to leave the country at the mercy of a corrupt and communal cabal."

Miss Jayaram, emerging from her palatial suite at one of the capital's leading hotels to announce her break with the government, accused Mr. Vajpayee's regime of being "a threat to national security." The political leader from Tamil Nadu state has demanded the removal of the defense minister, accusing him of corruption and aiding foreign terrorists.

News of the Pakistani missile test was all but eclipsed here by the frenzy of domestic political developments Wednesday. Neither the government nor its opponents had anything to say on the issue, while leaders from all parties huddled in hotels and offices, making deals and counting votes. By afternoon, the government was said to be within three or four seats of collapsing or surviving.

But diplomats and nuclear experts, while disagreeing on how dangerous the new round of tests may prove for regional stability, all said that the timing of the explosions was intertwined with the current political crisis in India and that the outcome of the imminent parliamentary showdown between Mr. Vajpayee and his opponents could bear sharply on India's approach to nuclear policy in the coming months.

"The prime minister has said he wants a credible minimum nuclear deterrent, and India is still defining what that means," one U.S. diplomat said. "If there is a long period of political uncertainty, it would take that much longer to find out. If there is an interim government, not much will happen for

months in" India's relations with Pakistan, China or the United States.

If Mr. Vajpayee does survive without Miss Jayaram's support, the diplomat noted, his weak coalition government could actually be strengthened by having cast off its most troublesome ally. Thus, officials might be better able to make unpopular policy decisions and take a more aggressive approach to engaging Pakistan diplomatically. A governing party led by the Congress Party, in contrast, might be more eager to prove its toughness.

Some critics bitterly accused Mr. Vajpayee of restarting the region's nuclear arms race in a desperate move to gain domestic support, even though the same tactic failed him last May. After a brief period of nationalistic euphoria, public support for the initial tests quickly withered and Mr. Vajpayee's government continued to lose popularity.

"It's a horrible gamble, and I don't think it will work," said Praful Bidwai, an anti-nuclear activist and writer. "People do crazy things when they are about to lose power and they see the writing on the wall. But now this has explicitly extended the nuclear rivalry to a new level, and a series of competitions could break out. I don't see how they can be so blasé."

Noting that both Indian and Pakistani officials made belligerent, triumphalist statements after their respective tests this week, he added, "We're right back to the same rhetoric that followed the May tests. It completely destroys the idea of being on the path to peace."

Mr. Bidwai also suggested that China, another adversary of India, which has signed numerous arms reduction treaties in the last several years, could now be provoked into relaunching a separate nuclear arms race.

ALGERIA: 6 Pull Out of Race

Continued from Page 1

President Zeroual's refusal to meet with the six Wednesday and consider their demand that he cancel a tainted process prompted their decision to boycott the elections.

One of the six candidates, former Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, said after the news conference, "If democracy is not respected, I'm not going to participate in a charade. No candidate wants to be elected through fraud."

The other five candidates were former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche; two moderate Islamist candidates, Ahmed Tabet Ibrahim and Abdellah Djaballah, a former official, Youssef Khattab, and a veteran opposition figure, Hocine Ait Ahmed. Mr. Ait Ahmed suffered a heart attack last week and was unable to attend the meeting of the six candidates at his own party's headquarters in a crumbling Algiers villa.

Four of the candidates had already accused the government of padding election rolls and printing extra ballots for Mr. Bouteflika, a long-ago foreign minister of Algeria called out of retirement as the "consensus" candidate of the generals, politicians and business leaders who have ruled this nominally democratic North African country since its revolution for independence from France in 1962.

On Wednesday, other charges were added concerning irregularities in early balloting by selected categories of Algerian voters, including the army and police.

Reform-minded concessions by the government had guaranteed all the candidates the right to be represented in polling places, but those representatives reportedly were prevented from witnessing the handling of ballot boxes in these selected voting places.

The withdrawal of the six candidates poses significant problems for President Zeroual, who announced his early retirement in September, and the generals who are reputed to be calling the shots behind him.

A one-candidate election after six months of uplifting promises about Algerian democracy could provoke popular anger at the end of a brief campaign season.

BRIEFLY

Chinese Police Warn Protester Tiananmen Is Still Off-Limits

BEIJING — The only senior Communist Party official imprisoned in the crackdown on the demonstrations around Tiananmen Square said Wednesday that the Chinese police had warned him against causing trouble during the protest movement's 10th anniversary.

Four police officials visited Bao Tong on Friday and told him that a letter he wrote last month, which described the suppression as a mistake, had endangered state security. He said they also told him, "I should not let reporters interview me."

The warning is the latest act of intimidation the government has used to prevent public debate or commemoration of the demonstrations that began 10 years ago Thursday.

South Korea Concludes Death Of Army Officer Was a Suicide

SEOUL — A South Korean Army officer whose mysterious death triggered charges of treason and military cover-up actually killed himself, the Defense Ministry said in its final report Wednesday.

First Lieutenant Kim Hoon, 26, was found shot in the head in February 1998 in a bunker at the truce village of Panmunjom, inside the demilitarized zone separating South Korea from communist North Korea.

An initial probe concluded that he shot himself with a pistol. But Lieutenant Kim's family, some local news media

and a parliamentary committee said he might have been killed by a subordinate trying to cover up illegal contacts with North Korean guards. The ministry reopened the investigation in December with private forensic doctors and lawyers. (AP)

Cambodia Has Quiet New Year

PHNOM PENH — Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia on Wednesday hailed the country's first peaceful new year in decades and said his government's greatest achievement was to eliminate the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group.

"This is the first time in Cambodian history that all of our land is under the control of the one state," Mr. Hun Sen said in a new year message broadcast on government television. He said his new coalition government will focus on development.

Wednesday was the first day of the traditional Cambodian new year and the beginning of a three-day national holiday. (Reuters)

No Fault Found in Manila Fire

MANILA — City officials and the owners of a disco that burned down three years ago, killing 162 people, have been acquitted on corruption charges, a court officer said Wednesday.

The fire at the Ozone Disco Pub in Quezon City, part of metropolitan Manila, was one of the world's worst such tragedies. Many of the victims were students celebrating the end of the school year.

The prosecution failed to prove that city officials had given "unwarranted benefit" to the owners of the disco, Judge Apolinario Bruselas Jr. of the regional court ruled. (AP)

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 They go into drives
- 6 West
- 11 Repetition
- 14 Outdo
- 16 Station
- 18 Postal creed word
- 17 Embarrassed person's nickname?
- 19 John —
- 20 Made some lace
- 21 Elusive
- 22 Monogram fr.
- 23 High points
- 24 Well-fed baby in a multiple birth?

DOWN

- 2 Shell and Head? sculptor
- 3 Love —
- 4 Around? (1968 Triggs hit)
- 5 Action after a defeat
- 7 Rap/rend
- 8 Air show formation
- 9 Vetted
- 10 French door part
- 11 Related on the mother's side
- 12 Skater Midori
- 13 One who dropped a pill on the floor?
- 14 Cigar

Word with work or Web

- 10 Procrastinator's refrain
- 12 Peer Gynt? composer et al.
- 13 Actress Hagen
- 14 Shakespearean sunburn victim?
- 15 "Like, I got it!"
- 16 Heat chambers
- 17 Cleo or Frankie
- 18 City (Saragosa Springs nickname)
- 19 Adjusts
- 20 Scoffing look

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Solution to Puzzle of April 14

ETAL INDIA KIDS
SIVA SAUCE EXIT
SLOWLERNER WHEE
EDIFIER COT IMP
SERUM ORA HUB
LOVEPROFILER
HOD SLEW EROTIC
ALEG DRAGS SOSO
DEFAVE ROTC RAN
JOLLYROGERS
AFT USE OPERA
WET HUT TRAILER
AXIS HARTATTACK
SPOT ODDEN ETUI
PONY HEART DERN

FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION
Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT.

APR 15 1999

WTO Delays Picking Chief With No Sign Of an Accord

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GENEVA — With time running out and no sign of consensus, the World Trade Organization on Wednesday again delayed a decision on choosing a new director-general, probably until the day after the present one leaves.

In its last formal meeting before the departure of Renato Ruggiero, the 134-nation body missed the latest in a string of deadlines. Members are expected to meet again April 30 — Mr. Ruggiero's last day in office.

"We cannot afford to miss the inevitable deadline," said Ali Mochtar, the council chairman, while admitting that the WTO had not yet reached a consensus.

The nomination battle and the prospect of a leaderless WTO come as the 1-trade organization seeks to resolve disputes between the United States and the European Union over issues such as bananas and hormone-treated beef. The next director-general also will have to lead the organization through years of complex negotiations to free up trade in areas from farm products to services.

The stalemate also coincides with a strong push by China to negotiate its entry into the organization through intensified talks with the United States and the European Union and multilateral discussions that will soon start here.

It is a year since Mr. Ruggiero announced his intention to leave at the end of April, but the organization has been deadlocked over the choice of a successor.

The two remaining candidates — Thailand's deputy prime minister, Supachai Panitchpakdi, and a former New Zealand prime minister, Mike Moore — each have the support of a large number of the members. Although Mr. Supachai is believed to be slightly ahead, Mr. Moore is supported by the United States and other important delegations.

The United States and Latin American countries are among Mr. Moore's strongest supporters, while Mr. Supachai is backed almost unanimously in Asia. European countries are divided between the two men.

The WTO always makes its decisions by consensus, which has meant a long struggle to find a common choice from the original four candidates. The organization originally planned to make a decision by the end of 1998 but found it was deadlocked.

All the members have said they will not block either candidate, but they are entrenched in their views, and a decision does not seem near.

Some countries have called for a vote if no agreement can be reached by the end of April.

"Our situation is essentially the same as it has been for the past three weeks," the WTO spokesman, Keith Rockwell, said during a meeting in Geneva to discuss the deadlocked selection process.

"A general consensus around either candidate has proved elusive."

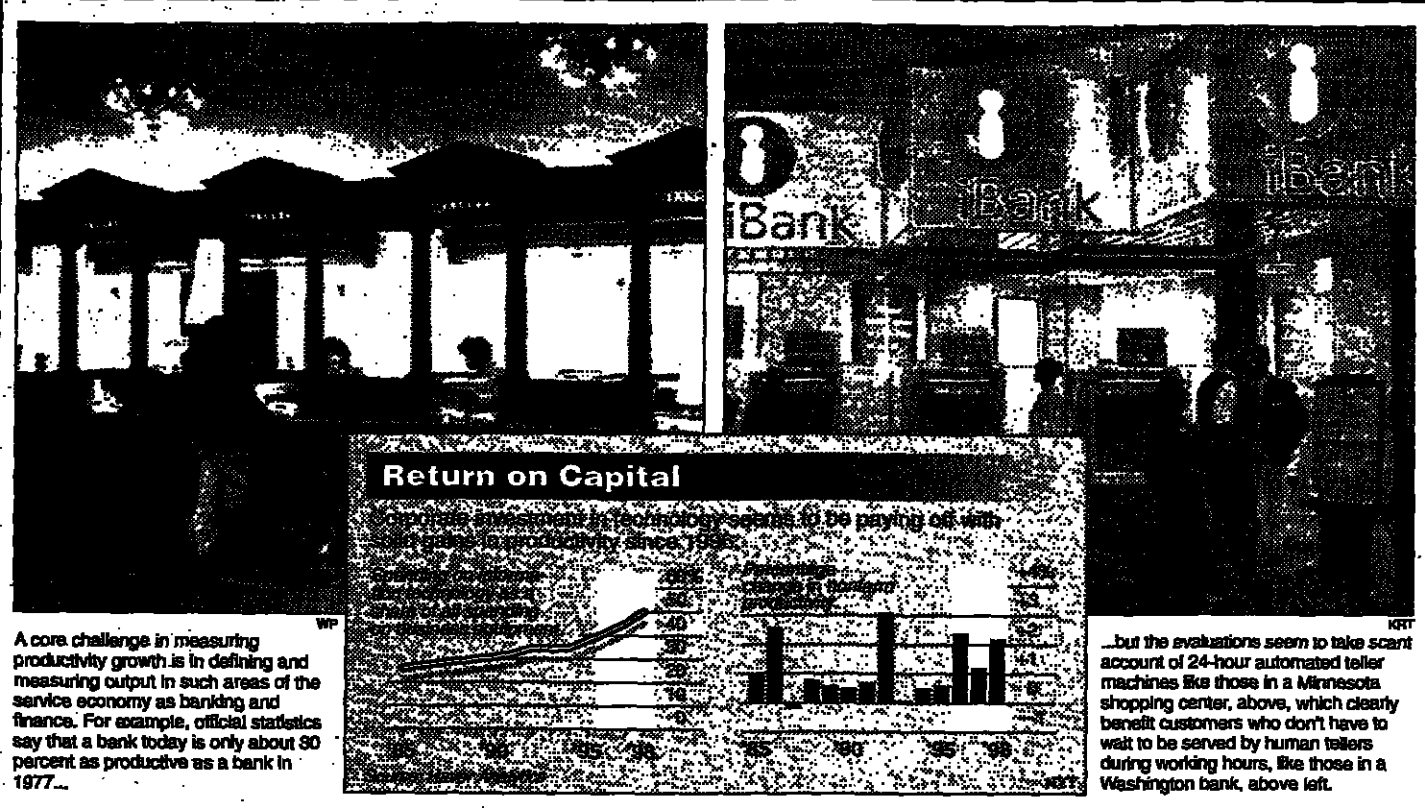
Mr. Ruggiero has said he will not stay any longer than the end of the month.

If no director-general has been appointed by then, one of the three existing deputies — who are also scheduled to leave at the same time — might be asked to stand in, or the WTO may continue without a chief.

In a letter to the members late last week, Mr. Ruggiero said a decision had to be made by the end of April.

"No interim solution or postponement can be justified, especially taking into account the outstanding qualities of the candidates," Mr. Ruggiero said.

(AP, Bloomberg)



At Last, Economists See a High-Tech Payoff

Long Skeptical, Many Now Say the Computer Age Is Bringing Productivity Gains

By Steve Lohr
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In a nation of technophiles, where Internet millionaires are minted daily, it seems heresy to question the economic payoff from information technology.

But for more than a decade, most leading American economists have been heretics. They have not been much impressed by the high-tech dogma — embraced by corporate executives, business school professors and Wall Street alike — that regards the transformation of the economy through the magic of information technology as a self-evident truth.

"You can see the Computer Age everywhere but in the productivity statistics," Robert Solow, a Nobel prizewinner from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology wrote a few years ago.

But today, even renowned skeptics on the subject of technology's contribution to the economy, such as Mr. Solow, are having second thoughts. After barely advancing 1 percent annually for years, productivity growth began to pick up in 1996, capped by a

surge in the second half of last year, after eight years of economic expansion. That has drawn attention because past upward swings in productivity typically occurred early in a recovery as economic activity rebounded. Once companies increased hiring, it slowed again.

But something seems fundamentally different this time, something apparently having

to do with the increased speed and efficiency that the Internet and other pervasive information-technology advances are bringing to the mundane day-to-day tasks of millions of businesses.

The question posed by economists is whether the higher productivity growth — averaging about 2 percent in the past three years, roughly double the pace from 1973 to 1995 — is a confirmation that steadily rising investment in computers and communications is finally paying off.

The evidence is starting to point in that direction. "My beliefs are shifting on this subject," Mr. Solow said. "I am still far from

certain. But the story always was that it took a long time for people to use information technology and truly become more efficient. That story sounds a lot more convincing today than it did a year or two ago."

Another pillar in the pessimist camp was Daniel Sichel, an economist at the Federal Reserve Board. In research done with another Fed economist, Stephen Oliner, in 1994 and on his own in 1997, Mr. Sichel found that computers contributed little to productivity growth. But recently, he ran similar calculations for the past few years and came to a different conclusion.

In a paper published in the quarterly Business Economics, Mr. Sichel wrote that his new work pointed to "a striking step up in the contribution of computers to output growth." Improved productivity performance in the United States, the paper says, is "raising the possibility that businesses are finally reaping the benefits of information technology."

The impact of information technology on the economy is more than an academic debate.

See PRODUCTIVITY, Page 12

Daimler Faces EU Fine Over Bargain-Hunting

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Wednesday that DaimlerChrysler AG faced a fine after finding that the automaker had refused to sell cars to customers who crossed European borders seeking lower prices.

DaimlerChrysler has denied breaking European Union antitrust rules and said it was cooperating with an investigation into the sales practices of Mercedes-Benz dealers in several European countries.

Hanns Glatz, DaimlerChrysler's EU representative, said he did not think the commission could prove DaimlerChrysler had a consistent policy of denying cars to foreign buyers. "We never had such a corporate strategy," he said.

A two-year inquiry by the European Union's executive agency found evidence that DaimlerChrysler dealers in Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany had broken EU antitrust rules by refusing to sell to foreigners between 1985 and 1996, Stefan Rating, an EU spokesman, said.

"We have evidence of circulars sent

to dealers encouraging them not to sell to foreigners," Mr. Rating said, adding that the commission opened a legal proceeding this month against DaimlerChrysler by sending the company a formal list of its complaints.

DaimlerChrysler has two months to respond to the commission's so-called statement of objections, Mr. Rating said. It will also have a chance to present its case at a hearing before the commission makes a final decision, expected within six months.

If found guilty, DaimlerChrysler could face fines of as much as 10 percent of its worldwide revenue in the year preceding the decision. The company posted sales of 132 billion euros (\$142 billion) in 1998.

Car companies in Europe regularly price the same cars differently in various countries to conform to local conditions, prompting bargain-hunters to cross borders. That practice is legal under EU rules but frowned upon by the automakers because it ends up costing them money.

(AP, Bloomberg)

After Big Loss, a New Chief for Nissan?

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Nissan Motor Co. had a net loss of more than 30 billion yen (\$248 million), three times the automaker's latest estimate, in the year that ended March 31, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Yoshitomi Tsuji, the company chairman, was expected to resign to take responsibility for the loss, the Yomiuri Shimbun also said.

A Nissan representative was quoted as telling Dow Jones Newswires that the report was speculative. She said the company was putting together its results

for the year and that no final numbers were available.

The losses resulted from sluggish domestic sales that eroded operating profit, along with one-time losses from Nissan's securities portfolio and aid extended to affiliated dealerships, the paper reported.

Nissan's parent company also probably lost much more money than it had expected to during the year, the paper said. In November, Nissan projected a net loss of 10 billion yen for the year.

The newspaper also reported that Nissan may either slash its dividend payments or forgo them entirely.

Also on Wednesday, a spokesman for Nissan said the company's North American operations probably had a profit in the 1998-99 financial year for the first time in two years. Nissan had expected to break even in North America after posting losses of 80 billion yen there the previous year.

Nissan's stock rose 2.9 percent Wednesday, or 13 yen, to 462 yen.

But analysts said it would be premature to speak of a Nissan revival in North America, the world's biggest auto market, with sales of 15.8 million vehicles in 1998.

(AP, Bloomberg)

Earnings Leap At J.P. Morgan

Bank Seeks to Silence Skeptics

By Timothy L. O'Brien
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — J.P. Morgan & Co., often described as vulnerable to a takeover after successive quarters of weak profit, posted stellar first-quarter earnings Wednesday to kick off a year in which management says the bank will finally prove its mettle.

The fifth-largest U.S. bank, heir to a blue-chip investment banking legacy that is now threatened by larger rivals, said earnings in the quarter jumped to \$600 million, or \$3.01 a share, up 64 percent from \$366 million, or \$1.80 a share, in the year-earlier quarter.

Morgan's shares rose \$2.6875 to close at \$132 on the New York Stock Exchange. Morgan's revenue rose 25 percent in the quarter, to \$2.5 billion.

The report from J.P. Morgan came after several other U.S.-based investment banks posted increased trading revenue for the first quarter in recent days as markets around the world recovered from their declines in the second half of last year.

Merrill Lynch & Co., the biggest U.S. brokerage, said Tuesday that its profit rose 18 percent, to \$609 million, as trading revenue climbed 23 percent. Bear, Stearns & Co. said profit rose 23 percent to a record in the year's first three months, while Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co.'s earnings gained 50 percent.

Bank advisers have said that Morgan's board of directors have given the bank's chairman, Douglas Warner, about a year to sharply heighten the bank's earnings profile before it would seriously consider other alternatives for the company.

The bank's profit in the quarter was buoyed by strong gains in its bond trading business, in which Morgan has long been an international powerhouse, and by assets moves to hedge its financial exposure to such risky markets as Brazil.

It also made a strong showing in stock underwriting and trading, as well as in derivatives.

Morgan said overseas markets had calmed down since a wave of currency devaluations and other financial woes began washing across the globe almost two years ago.

"This is the first time in over five years the bank has generated more than a 20 percent return on equity, so it's been a long time in coming," said Diane Glossman, an analyst with Lehman Brothers Inc.

"But it's still a stretch to say that strong revenue growth is a permanent condition at Morgan."

Another positive trend, analysts said, was Morgan's increasing ability to get its once-burgeoning budget under control. The bank said operating expenses, excluding a one-time charge in last year's first quarter, rose about 11 percent, to \$1.57 billion. But that represented a smaller percentage of revenue than Morgan typically has shown in prior quarters — a welcome sign, analysts said.

Another large bank, Fleet Financial Group Inc., also reported first-quarter earnings Wednesday. It posted robust profit of \$438 million, or 72 cents a share, up 36 percent from \$323 million, or 53 cents a share, in last year's first quarter.

Analysts had been expecting Fleet to post earnings of 69 cents a share. On the Big Board, Fleet's shares rose 43.75 cents to close at \$43.50.

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CURRENCY RATES											
April 14						Other Dollar Values					
Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
Argentine peso	0.0099	Hong Kong dollar	234.71	N. Zealand \$	1.5427	Slov. tolar	41.65	Thai baht	25.50	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Australian \$	1.5711	Indian rupee	42.70	Norw. krone	7.231	S. Afric. rand	6.085	Taiwan \$	125.00	Yen	106.40
Belgian franc	1.3663	Israeli sheqel	4.850	Pakistani rupee	50.72	Urugu. peso	24.248	Yuan	8.275		
British pound	1.6457	Japanese yen	106.40	Phil. peso	38.11	Viet. dong	207.48				
Canadian \$	0.6725	Korean won	106.40	Polish zloty	3.98						
Chinese yuan	8.275	Laos kip	106.40	Romanian leu	24.50						
Czech koruna	35.23	Malay. ringgit	3.755	S. Korean won	106.40						
Danish krone	6.4656	Malay. ringgit	3.755	Singapore \$	1.3745						
Deutsche mark	1.9364	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Dracma	200.482	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
East German mark	1.5556	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Euro	1.6363	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
French franc	1.6363	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
German mark	1.9364	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Italian lire	200.482	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Japanese yen	106.40	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
South Korean won	106.40	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Slovak tolar	41.65	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Slovenian tolar	41.65	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Spanish peseta	166.386	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Swedish krona	8.4656	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Swiss franc	1.9364	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Taiwan \$	125.00	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Turkish liras	200.482	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
U.S. dollar	1.0000	Malay. ringgit	3.755								
Yen	106.40	Malay. ringgit	3.755								

هفتاد و نهم

EUROPE

Kvaerner Swept Up in European Revolution

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — Kvaerner ASA's announcement that it will sell all its shipyards and other unprofitable businesses is the latest example of a reorganization revolution in European corporate culture.

For years, many of Europe's biggest industrial companies snubbed shareholders by pursuing murky strategies and producing mediocre profits. Now they are slashing costs and getting rid of businesses that do not measure up.

In November, Siemens AG of Germany unveiled plans to spur profit by selling off businesses with sales of \$10 billion. Alcatel SA, the French manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, announced plans last month to eliminate 12,000 jobs at the end of 2000. ABB Asea Brown Boveri AG, the Swiss-

Swedish engineering firm, eliminated more than 12,000 jobs last year.

But the shakeup announced Tuesday at Kvaerner is one of the most drastic.

If carried out in full, the company would abandon a business that has also been a bedrock of Norwegian industry. It would shrink itself to about two-thirds of its current size, shedding 25,000 of its 80,000 workers. The moves are likely to lead to job cuts at shipyards around Europe and possibly in the United States as well.

Kvaerner, which builds products including offshore oil rigs and cruise ships, had been planning to build ships at the old Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and employ about 1,000 people there.

Those plans could change abruptly, depending on what the shipbuilder's new owners decide to do. Kvaerner executives said they had

not decided whether to simply sell the shipyards, spin the business off as a separate entity to shareholders or retool more gradually by putting them into a joint venture with some other shipbuilder.

Whichever course prevails, the changes will be drastic. Kjell Almskog, who took over as chief executive in December, said the company had set aside 4 billion kroner (\$514.9 million) to cover reorganization costs.

Besides selling the shipyards, which employ about 10,000 workers, the company plans to sell businesses with 11,500 workers in areas such as metal equipment, mechanical engineering, pulp and paper products, and a real-estate development. Several thousand other jobs would be eliminated in the companies that remained.

"Keep in mind that this is an old, traditional Norwegian company," said Otar Hangerud, an analyst at

Orkla Securities in Oslo. "They have turned the company upside down. It is a completely different company today than it was yesterday."

Almost any change might seem to be an improvement. Under Kvaerner's previous chief executive, Erik Tonseth, the company's 1998 loss came to 1.4 billion kroner. The company's stock plunged nearly 80 percent last year, though it had partly recovered since Mr. Almskog took over and made it clear he would shift course.

Many of the problems can be traced to Mr. Tonseth's disastrous purchase of Trafalgar House, a sprawling British engineering company that also owned the Cunard Line cruise ships, for \$1.38 billion in 1996.

Trafalgar was loaded with debt and problems, which drained capital when the shipbuilding industry was in recession.

Though Kvaerner sold off numerous chunks of Trafalgar including Cunard Line and the Queen Elizabeth 2 cruise ship, it still ran up big losses last year and was plagued by high costs and its disjointed mish-mash of companies.

Analysts said it may be difficult to find buyers for Kvaerner's 12 European shipyards. Beyond that, Mr. Almskog's description of the problems at other businesses was bleaker than some analysts had expected.

Nonetheless, most said the plan was a step in the right direction.

"It is hard to get rid of shipbuilding yards in Europe these days, but in the long run this is the right decision," said Olof Jonasson, an industry analyst at Handelsbanken Markets in Oslo.

In Oslo, Kvaerner's stock rose 15.50 kroner to close at 151.50 kroner.

Mannesmann Shares Sink On Forecast

DUSSELDORF — Shares of Mannesmann AG tumbled Wednesday after the German telecommunications and engineering group said it expected that its earnings in 1999 would be little changed from 1998 because of an increase in costs following its purchase of the fixed-line rival Oteco Communications GmbH from the utility companies VEB AG and RWE AG.

Mannesmann fell 6.90 euros (\$7.43), or 5.2 percent, to close at 126 euros. Earnings in the first quarter rose from a year earlier, Mannesmann said in a statement, without elaborating.

Group sales in the first quarter rose almost 4 percent, to 4.6 billion euros, amid a 32 percent growth in its telecommunications division, Mannesmann said. The company said it expected sales for the full year to increase about 1 billion euros, to about 20 billion euros.

"We had definitely expected more from the figures," one trader said.

Other traders said there had been some profit-taking in Mannesmann shares after gains in recent days amid wrangling in the Italian market, where Olivetti SpA is trying to take over Telecom Italia SpA.

Olivetti plans to fund its bid for Telecom Italia partly through the sale of its stakes in Italy's second-largest mobile-phone network, Omnitel Pronto Italia SpA, and in the fixed-line operator Infostrada SpA to its partner Mannesmann.

Mannesmann said it expected profit to increase in 1999 in its telecommunications division, excluding Oteco and a possible increase in its Omnitel and Infostrada stakes.

Buffett Brings Europe Into Jet Set

LONDON — Warren Buffett, the billionaire American investor whose many holdings include a company that sells part ownerships in Europe and that he would invest whatever money was needed to make it happen.

Mr. Buffett, who bought Executive Jet Inc. last year for \$725 million, said just 1,100 of the 9,000 business jets owned worldwide were based in Europe. He predicted his plan to sell partial stakes in jets could lift European

ownership to 20 percent.

"We have the resources and the desire to develop this company around the world just as fast as we can," said Mr. Buffett, 68. "Europe is our main project now."

Executive Jet also will begin marketing in the Middle East in July and plans to sell in Asia and South America eventually.

"Europe is really tomorrow's market" for business jets, said Doug McVie, managing director of Arran Aerospace, an aviation forecasting company based in Scotland.

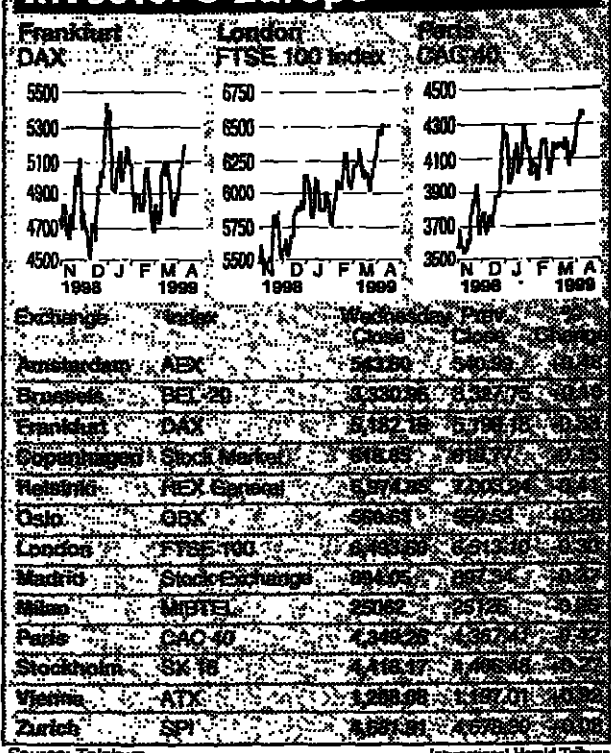
Mr. Buffett first came to Ex-

ecutive Jet four years ago when he bought a one-eighth interest in a plane. He declined to say how much capital the company would invest to develop the market in Europe.

■ **Investor Mum on Purchase**

Mr. Buffett confirmed earlier this week that he had been accumulating shares in an unnamed British company in recent months, Reuters reported. He declined to say whether the company sold consumer products or when his stake would surpass the 3 percent mark, a milestone that would force him to divulge its identity.

Investor's Europe



Very briefly:

- Germany's Federal Cartel Office gave Kirch Group approval to raise its stake in the pay-television channel Premiere to 95 percent from 50 percent.
 - The World Bank's president, James Wolfensohn, flew to Moscow to review with the Russian leadership Moscow's progress in carrying out reform pledges before a decision on \$1.85 billion in loans by the International Monetary Fund.
 - Vivendi SA of France inaugurated a 2.6 billion euro (\$2.8 billion) convertible bond issue with a 1.5 percent yield and a maturity date of Jan. 1, 2005, the lead manager, Societe Generale, said.
 - Halifax PLC of Britain plans to sell 224 of its 606 real-estate agencies and eliminate 1,100 jobs, saving \$50 million (\$80.1 million) a year starting in 2000.
 - Sweden unveiled a budget that promised both tax cuts and spending increases in the years ahead, sending a worrying signal to financial markets.
- Bloomberg, AP, AFP, Reuters

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, April 14

Prices in local currencies.

in euros for ECU countries.

in yen for Japan.

in dollars for U.S. markets.

in pounds for U.K. markets.

in francs for France.

in baht for Thailand.

in ringgit for Malaysia.

in rupiah for Indonesia.

in won for South Korea.

in baht for Hong Kong.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

2 Chaebol Combine Units as Seoul Steps Up Pressure

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — Two South Korean conglomerates announced a merger of business units Wednesday against a backdrop of rising pressure from President Kim Dae Jung for corporate reform.

Hanwha Group and Daewoo Group, two of South Korea's biggest petrochemical makers, said they would merge their naphtha operations, creating Asia's second-largest ethylene producer.

The agreement was hailed as the first voluntary business swap between conglomerates, or chaebol.

that did not involve government intervention.

Hanwha and Daewoo will establish a new company with a capacity to produce 1.2 million tons of ethylene a year. Ethylene is the main chemical for making plastics. It is made using naphtha that has been processed through a cracking unit.

"It's motivated by market forces to establish more efficient operations," said Lee Jun Yong, chairman of Daewoo Industrial. "We believe it will help overcome current economic problems and lead to sound growth in the future."

Exchanges of business units between chaebol are a cornerstone of the government's campaign to revive the South Korean economy, but most of the chaebol have been unwilling to give up control of key units to their rivals.

Mr. Kim, reiterating a warning that he has raised for the past year, called Wednesday on South Korean banks to take punitive action against chaebol that are slow to carry out government-backed reorganization.

"There must be visible reform efforts," the president said. "Otherwise, there will be financial sanc-

tion through banks, as we declared last December."

"These are not empty words," he added.

He said that the slow pace of reorganization could damage newly improved credit ratings, stir public anxiety and push the economy back to the brink of disaster.

"The government has waited enough," Mr. Kim said, adding that the government expected corporate restructuring to be finished this year without fail.

Mr. Kim said that the aim of financial sanctions, if they were im-

posed, would not be "destroying" chaebol but leading them "to adopt drastic self-rescue efforts."

In a clear warning, he said that even the top five chaebol — Hyundai Group, Daewoo Group, Samsung Co., LG Group and SK Group — could be placed under bank-led rehabilitation programs.

Mr. Kim also said he had delayed a meeting with chaebol heads that had been set for April 22 because it would be useless in the absence of restructuring achievements.

He did not specify a new date for the meeting. (AFP, Bloomberg)

KDD Blames Competition as It Slashes Jobs

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — KDD Corp. said Wednesday it would cut its work force by 2,000, or 35 percent, to face mounting competition in Japan's international telecommunications market.

KDD's work force will be pared to 3,800 employees over five years ending March 2003, a KDD spokes-

woman said. The cuts will come mostly through attrition and an early retirement program, she said.

KDD is the first Japanese telecommunications company to resort to large-scale job cuts to face competition from rivals that have been chipping away at its share of the 500 billion yen (\$4.14 billion) overseas telecommunications market.

KDD, which has forecast its first group net loss in the year ended March 31 because of a rate war, joins more than 100 Japanese companies that have announced cutbacks. They include Sony Corp. and Daiichi Inc., Japan's largest supermarket chain.

On Wednesday, Tosoh Corp., a major Japanese petrochemicals

maker, said it would cut 1,158 jobs, or about 30 percent of its work force, by the end of March 2004.

KDD, the former government monopoly for international telecommunications services, has been buffeted by increasing price competition since Japan opened the market to new entrants in 1985.

One of those entrants is Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp., the former government monopoly for domestic phone service. In July, NTT will expand its fledgling international businesses after it splits into three units, one providing long-distance and overseas phone services, and two offering local phone services.

KDD shares closed Wednesday at 6,350 yen up 500.

Coke Revises Cadbury Bid In Australia

Bloomberg News

SYDNEY — Coca-Cola Co. offered Wednesday to sell its Australian unit's local brands to Cadbury Schweppes PLC to win antitrust approval to buy Cadbury's leading international soda labels in Australia.

Under the new proposal, Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd., of which about 43 percent is owned by Coca-Cola, will sell its local brands, including Kirks, Shelleys and Ecks, to Cadbury Schweppes Australia. That company will operate its own distribution networks and keep its bottling assets, providing competition for Coke.

Last week, Australia's antitrust body blocked the companies' original proposal, part of Coca-Cola's \$1.85 billion purchase of Cadbury Schweppes' beverage lines outside the United States. It would have lifted Coke's share of Australia's soda market to 75 percent from 65 percent and eliminated an "effective competitor," regulators said.

Renong Plans to Sell Assets to Fund Rescue

Bloomberg News

KUALA LUMPUR — Renong Bhd., Malaysia's biggest industrial group, said Wednesday it planned to sell its property, mineral and other businesses as part of an 8.4 billion ringgit (\$2.2 billion) rescue by its still road unit, Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan Bhd., or PLUS.

PLUS last month said it would sell a record 8.4 billion ringgit in bonds to bail out Renong.

As part of the pact, Renong has to raise 8.75 billion ringgit to repay PLUS by 2006, when the bonds mature.

"It's going to be quite difficult to find that kind of money," said Choong Wai Kee, an analyst at JM

Sassoon Research Sdn. For Renong, which is saddled with 20 billion ringgit in debts, the asset sales will mean a leaner, more focused operation.

The sales will also mark the end of an ambitious expansion by Renong that led to its diversification into everything from banking and construction to oil, gas, public transportation, hotels and telecommunications.

According to documents presented to Renong creditors, Renong will sell shares, debt and assets, including its stake in monorail operator Projek Usahasana Transit Ringan Automatik Sdn., to raise the funds.

Other major assets Renong is likely to sell include its stake in property company Prolink Development Sdn. and its 18 percent stake in banking company Commerce Asset Holding Bhd.

Renong shares closed Wednesday unchanged at 77 sen.

On March 8, Renong said PLUS planned to sell 8.4 billion ringgit of 7-year, zero-coupon bonds yielding 10 percent annually, which will be used to pay off creditors of Renong and its construction unit United Engineers Malaysia Bhd.

The bond sale gives Renong seven years to pay back PLUS and an economic recovery may help it sell its assets at a much higher price.

NTT Urged to Lower Rates

The high rates charged by NTT to rivals to hook up to its local lines are squeezing out competition, according to Washington, which has urged Japan to reduce the rates by mid-year. The Associated Press reported from Tokyo, citing a U.S. Embassy statement.

The interconnection fees imposed by NTT are almost five times higher than some U.S. rates and more than double those in France and Germany, the embassy statement said.

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
13000	1700	18000
12000	1600	17000
11000	1500	16000
10000	1400	15000
9000	1300	14000
8000	1200	13000
1998	1998	1998
1999	1999	1999
Exchange Index	Wednesday Prev. Close	Wednesday Prev. Close
Hong Kong Hang Seng	11,834.13	11,889.89
Singapore Straits Times	1,702.33	1,578.38
Tokyo Nikkei 225	3,088.20	3,076.30
London FTSE 100	16,764.60	16,718.18
Frankfurt DAX	5,783.11	5,843.63
Paris CAC 40	3,687.41	3,693.80
Madrid IBEX 35	7,388.95	7,337.85
Amsterdam AEX	2,169.41	2,157.64
Brussels Euronext	4,355.58	4,325.18
Stock Market Index	2,149.37	2,148.19
Source: Reuters		

Very briefly:

- Japan's bankrupt companies left 15.182 trillion yen (\$127 billion) in debts in the year that ended March 31, the most since World War II. The total number of bankruptcies in the year rose 0.3 percent, to 17,497.
- China's retail sales rose at a slower pace last month as consumers stepped up their savings. Retail sales totaled 243.3 billion yuan (\$39.4 billion), up 6.7 percent from a year earlier, after growth of 8.1 percent in the first two months of the year.
- Singapore was rated by expatriate businessmen in Asia as No. 1 among countries in the region for its response to the nearly two-year-old economic crisis. Respondents to a poll cited its avoidance of market intervention and its advanced financial markets.
- Korean Air, moving to ease concern that it had cut corners on safety as it expanded, will get rid of 15 aging planes and hire 50 foreign pilots.
- Kawasaki Steel Corp. will cut the amount it invests in factories and equipment this year to 41 billion yen, the lowest level in 20 years.
- General Motors Corp.'s Saturn unit pledged commitment to the Japanese market despite disappointing sales of just 1,400 cars in Japan last year.
- Japan Airlines Co. will suspend hiring new graduates as flight attendants until March 2001 as part of its plan to cut 8 percent of its work force and reduce debt.

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SPORTS

McGwire Swats 2 Homers to Regain '98 Pace

The Associated Press
Mark McGwire is not chasing Roger Maris anymore. He is chasing himself.

On Tuesday, McGwire caught up with his record-setting 1998 pace when he hit two home runs as the St. Louis Cardinals beat Pittsburgh, 4-2.

McGwire has four homers in seven games, the same as in 1998, when he hit 70.

"That's in the past. Let's talk about this year," McGwire said. "This is the game of baseball. It's not a home run game. I do what I can to help the ballclub. I don't hit any home runs, it's no big deal."

Oh, but it is a big deal to the fans—even in visiting ballparks. The Pirates began the night in the unaccustomed role of division leaders, yet many of the 19,724 fans raced for the exits in the ninth inning after McGwire walked for the third time. They had greeted the first two walks, both intentional after doubles by Edgar Renteria, with lengthy boos.

"They have to understand it's a game of baseball," said McGwire. "The Pirates are trying to win a game. If that means walking me to get to somebody else, I accept it."

The fans are going to have to accept it, too. This is not an individual sport.

McGwire hit the first pitch he saw from Pete Schourek into the left-field seats in the first inning.

He started the fifth by lifting another sinking fastball over the 400-foot mark in center and into the covered outfield seats.

"They were decent pitches to any other hitter in the league—but he's not any other hitter in the league," Schourek said.

"Everybody knows he's a good low-ball hitter. He's tough to pitch to. I didn't even get a chance to throw him any of my breaking stuff."

Overshadowed by McGwire's big night was a rare steal of home plate by a catcher, the Cardinals' Eli Marrero. He accomplished it in the fourth as Schourek bounced

a pitch in the dirt just as Botenfield was squaring around on an apparent suicide squeeze.

Diamondbacks 7, Dodgers 6
Dante Powell's run-scoring double capped a three-run rally in the

16th inning as Arizona won the longest game in its two-season history.

The Diamondbacks, who lost twice to Los Angeles last week in extra innings, took five hours, 14 minutes to win this one at home.

Astros 7, Giants 3 Mike Hampton improved to 7-0 lifetime against San Francisco, while Houston stole seven bases to win on the road. The steals set up two runs.

Brewers 8, Expos 4 Marquis Grissom hit his sixth career home run against his former team, and Milwaukee sent Montreal to its fourth straight loss.

The game drew only 5,589 fans, the smallest at Olympic Stadium since Oct. 3, 1990, when

4,262 saw the season finale. The Expos had a near-sellout crowd of 43,918 for their home opener last week.

Devil Rays 8, Blue Jays 5
Canada's American League team drew a crowd of 23,710, its smallest ever at the Toronto SkyDome.

The previous low crowd was 23,446 on May 10, 1996.

Kevin Stocker's two-run triple keyed a five-run fifth inning that sent Tampa Bay to its first victory in Tampa.

Texas 15, Mariners 6 Ivan Rodriguez hit a three-run homer in the first inning, a two-run single in the second and his first career grand slam in the third.

The All-Star catcher set a Texas record with nine runs batted in—the most in the majors since 1996—as the Rangers won in Seattle.

Rodriguez went wild at the Kingdome, the same place where Mike Greenwell drove in nine runs for Boston on Sept. 2, 1996.

Johnny Oates, Texas's manager, took Rodriguez out in the

eighth. His replacement, Gregg Zaun, batted with two runners on in the ninth and walked.

Yankees 8, Orioles 3 Tino Martinez's grounder hit the third-base bag for a key double in the eighth inning, and New York turned the lucky bounce into its sixth straight victory over visiting Baltimore.

Rather than an inning-ending groundout, Martinez's ball hopped over Cal Ripken's head.

Arthur Rhodes then threw a wild pitch that put the Yankees ahead 3-2, and Jorge Posada followed with a three-run homer.

Red Sox 6, White Sox 0 Bret Saberhagen pitched 6 2/3 scoreless innings and Jose Offerman hit a two-run triple as Boston won its home opener.

Athletics 3, Angels 2 Mike Quist, promoted from the minors earlier in the day, pitched six solid innings as Oakland beat visiting Anaheim.

The victory was the 2,500th for the Athletics since moving to Oakland from Kansas City in 1968.



Fernando Vina of Milwaukee after being struck by a pitch thrown by Javier Vazquez of Montreal, as the Brewers won, 8-4.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	4	1	.800	—
New York	4	1	.800	—
Tampa Bay	4	1	.800	—
Toronto	4	1	.800	—
Baltimore	2	5	.286	4

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	3	4	.429	3
Kansas City	3	4	.429	3
Minnesota	3	4	.429	3
Chicago	2	5	.286	4
Detroit	2	5	.286	4

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Anaheim	4	4	.500	—
Seattle	4	4	.500	—
Texas	4	4	.500	—
Oakland	3	5	.375	1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	4	2	.667	—
Atlanta	4	2	.667	—
Philadelphia	4	2	.667	—
Montreal	3	5	.375	1
Florida	2	5	.286	2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	4	3	.571	—
Cincinnati	4	3	.571	—
St. Louis	4	3	.571	—
Chicago	3	4	.429	1
Milwaukee	2	5	.286	2

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	4	2	.667	—
San Diego	4	2	.667	—
Arizona	4	2	.667	—
Colorado	3	5	.375	1

TODAY'S RESULTS

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ART BUCHWALD

Policing for the Polite

NEW YORK — The police here have been ordered to be polite. They are even carrying cards that tell them what to say to citizens. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani says that if the police are polite, city dwellers will respond in kind.

I've set up several situations that might occur if everyone was nice to each other.

"Sir, were you thinking of holding up this bank?"

"Yes, officer. That is what I had in mind."

"If you did that, I would have to arrest you and bring you to justice."

"I agree that it will put you to a great deal of trouble, but as John Dillinger once said, 'A bank is the only sure place where the money is.'"

"Sir, what had you planned to do with the gun you are holding in your hand?"

"I was going to use it to frighten the employees."

"That's not a good idea. It's against the law to point a gun at somebody. If you did so, I would have to read you your rights, which include hiring a lawyer — and you know what they charge. It's more than you can get from robbing the bank."

If you will excuse me for a moment, I just saw someone go through a red light."

"Forgive me for asking, but why did you go through a red light?"

"That's a dumb question. I went through the light because I didn't see it."

"Nothing to be ashamed of, sir. Many of us spend our lives not seeing red lights."

"You are a very understanding policeman."

"All New York City policemen are understanding. We feel people's pain. If you'll excuse me, I see several gentlemen stealing a BMW from the curb."

"All right. Please put that car back where you found it. Don't you know it's a crime to take someone else's transportation in the confines of New York City?"

"We didn't know that, officer. We thought if you found an automobile on the street and it was unoccupied, it was yours."

"You've been misinformed. I must charge you with car theft."

"O.K., but I have a right to make one phone call. Do you have change for a dollar?"

"Here is a quarter from my own pocket. I pray the person you are calling is in."

Ancient Roman Ships Found

ROME — Italian archaeologists have unearthed eight wooden Roman ships from a site near Pisa. The vessels date from the first century B.C. to the fifth century A.D. and were found in almost perfect condition.

"So far, we have found eight of them, but the excavations are continuing and the fleet is certainly much bigger," said Stefano Bruni of the Tuscan archaeology department.

The archaeologists have also begun to excavate what they believe is a Roman warship, which would make it the first such vessel from ancient times still fully preserved. The site will be open to specialists and journalists on April 20, a minister said.

A Larger-Than-Life Power Play Spans the Seine

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — With all the symmetry that Parisians love, the Pont des Arts links the painting and sculpture of the Louvre Museum with the philosophy and letters of the Institut de France.

It is a footbridge, but a serious bridge nonetheless, its iron arches resting on stone foundations and 19th-century lampposts adding elegance to its wide wooden walkway across the Seine.

It is, one might say, an unlikely place to find fierce American Indian warriors and naked African wrestlers.

Overnight, however, the Pont des Arts has been turned into an open-air, 24-hour exhibition space peopled by 68 larger-than-life sculptures by a 63-year-old artist from Senegal, Ousmane Sow.

The show forms part of a cultural program that presented an overview of 20th-century sculpture on the Champs-Élysées in 1996 and works by Mark di Suvero on the esplanade of the Invalides in 1997. This time the setting as well as the works is pulling larger round-the-clock crowds than ever.

The sculptures are all figurative, yet what makes them so striking, apart from their size and unusual appearance, is the physical power and movement they evoke, as if they were alive one moment and frozen the next. Individually and in groups they all seem intent on telling a story. And through their stories Sow pays homage to American Indians and to Africans.

The show, which will run through May 20 and is Sow's first retrospective, presents five of the narrative series he has made since he turned to sculpture 15 years ago: Nuba wrestlers (1984), Masai warriors (1988), Zulu warriors (1991), Fulani shepherds (1993) and the Battle of Little Big Horn (1998), which alone comprises no fewer than 24 human figures and 11 horses and represents his most remarkable achievement.

Until now Parisians were unfamiliar with his work. Sow, however, was hardly unfamiliar with Paris.

Born in Dakar in 1935, he left Senegal in 1957 for Paris, where he lived for the next 25 years. He dreamed of becoming an artist but dropped out of art school for lack of funds. Instead he qualified as a physiotherapist and opened a private practice that



A view along the Pont des Arts with a few of Ousmane Sow's sculptures.

eventually earned him a respectable living.

It also taught him everything a sculptor needs to know about the human body.

By the time he returned to Dakar in the early 1980s, he had tried his hand at small-scale sculpture without satisfactory results.

Then, in 1984, he discovered photographs of naked Nuba wrestlers in southern Sudan taken in the late 1960s by Leni Riefenstahl. Hitler's documentary filmmaker, and he was suddenly inspired to attack monumental sculptures.

The result seen here includes two muscular tribesmen wrestling, another two in combat with staffs, a naked woman dancing and a quiet sculpture of a woman sitting cross-legged as she paints the body of a kneeling man.

Sow began developing the technique that would enable him to create figures in movement that are sometimes 9 or 10 feet high but nonetheless have the hair, eyes, teeth, muscles, clothes and shoes necessary to make them look human.

Today he uses construction wire to provide the skeleton and then variously mixes clay, plastic, stone, metal, jute, cloth, plaster and rubber to shape the figures. Finally the sculptures are coated in an all-

weather substance, the ingredients of which remain his secret.

After his Nuba wrestlers were shown at the French Cultural Center in Dakar in 1988, Sow felt encouraged to press on. By the time he was noticed by the broader art world at Documenta 9 in Kassel, Germany, in 1992 and again at the 1995 Venice Biennale, he had created his Masai, Zulu and Fulani series.

With the Masai, his second group, Sow introduced animals, as in "Blood Drinker With Bull," in which a tribesman is bleeding the neck of a bull while trying to control its head-tossing resistance.

He was also drawn to create peaceful images, like a broad-backed Masai woman breast-feeding a baby, a 10-foot-high Masai warrior standing guard with a spear and decorated shield, a Peul woman tending her man's hair and a Peul couple courting shyly.

Yet it is in movement that he excels: a Zulu warrior bedecked in animal skins about to throw a spear, a young Peul tribesman wrestling a bullock and a Masai woman in a trance, standing on her tiptoes as if about to fall, her head thrown back and her eyes rolling wildly.

Sow, a tall white-haired man with a jovial

manner, recounts that he creates his sculptures without prior sketches, guided only by his imagination.

"I do not seek anatomical exactitude," he explained. "In order for energy to express itself, whether from humans or material, doesn't it need to be tortured in some way?"

More surprising perhaps, he has never visited any of the African tribes that he has portrayed. In the case of "Little Big Horn," though, he read all he could about the 1876 battle where the Seventh Cavalry Regiment was defeated — and Colonel George A. Custer was killed — by Sioux and Cheyenne forces under Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, Two Moon and Gall.

In the center of the Pont des Arts, scenes from that battle are presented like a giant *mise en scene*, its fury, falling bodies and dead horses reminiscent, in the view of one French art critic, of Picasso's "Guernica."

At one end Sitting Bull sits in prayer, his hands held high, his head looking upward; at the other end a uniformed army bugler seems to be calling for help. In the middle the battle rages.

At one moment two soldiers stand back to back, pistols in hand, trying to hold off one muscular Indian who holds a bow and arrow and another firing from a staggering horse.

In another scene a soldier with a knife in his hand is wrestling an Indian to the ground. Custer's own death is also imagined: as an Indian fires at him, he falls, captured, as his left hand touches the ground, his head thrown back, the pistol in his right hand no longer able to save him.

Sow's work seems to owe little to Africa's tradition of carving wooden masks and statues and in many ways is closer to the sculpture of, say, Rodin, Maillo and Bourdelle, which he was able to study during his long years in Paris. Yet it is the raw strength of Africa, which he also projects onto the American Indians, that distinguishes it from anything done in the West.

His daring also includes the fact that as a Muslim he has risked criticism simply by representing human figures, something that is supposedly prohibited by Islam. But he is unfazed.

"The prophet's concern was with idolatry, not sculpture," he said. "I include no fetishism in my pieces. A sculpture is a work that can awaken emotion, but never an object that should be prayed to."

PEOPLE

withdrew the no-contest plea. No explanation was given.

The widower of Tammy Wynette has spoken up to deny allegations that he helped cause the country star's death. George Richey and Wynette's physician, Wallis Marsh, are being sued by three of her daughters, who contend that the two didn't monitor her condition closely enough and gave her too many painkillers. "All of these allegations are totally false, without

foundation, and that will be proven in a court of law," Richey said in a statement. Marsh has also denied wrongdoing.

A fan of the bandleader Glenn Miller paid £21,850 (about \$35,000) for a military logbook that may hold a clue to Miller's disappearance during World War II. William Suitts of Boulder, Colorado, bid for the book by telephone to Sotheby's auction house in London. Miller disappeared in a plane over the English Channel on a foggy December day in 1944. No trace was ever found of the aircraft or its passengers. One theory was that the plane went down because of bad weather, but a flight log belonging to the Royal Air Force navigator Fred Shaw suggested Miller's plane may have been downed by bombs jetisoned by a Royal Air Force squadron returning from an aborted raid on Germany. In 1985 the Ministry of Defense wrote a letter to Shaw saying, "in retrospect we now lean towards this being the most likely solution to the mystery."

Earl Spencer, the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, on Wednesday accepted a public apology and libel damages after allegations about proceeds from a memorial concert. Spencer had sued Express Newspapers; the Express on Sunday editor, Rosie Boycott, and the media editor, Ben Summerskill, over an article that appeared late last year headlined "Mystery of Earl's £1 million concert cash." The case centered on a memorial concert at the Spencer family home of Althorp in June 1998.



Brown and Houston at a party in New York.

AN END may be in sight to the traffic jams provoked by "Mona Lisa" at the Louvre Museum in Paris. An international jury has picked a French architect, Lorenzo Pi-queras, to turn the Salle des Etats, where Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece now hangs, into two galleries, one for large oils of the Venetian Renaissance, the other exclusively for "Mona Lisa." The Louvre, which receives 6 million visitors a year, hopes this will facilitate things for the many tourists who enter the museum principally to see the painting. The \$4.5 million conversion, to be paid for by Nippon Television, should be ready in 2002.

Whitney Houston says she's the aggressor in her marriage to Bobby Brown. "Contrary to belief, I do the hitting, he doesn't. He has never put his hands on me. He is not a woman-beater," the singer and actress says in the May issue of Redbook. "We are crazy for one another. I mean crazy in love, love, love, love, love. When we're fighting, it's like that's love for us. We're fighting for our love." Brown's arrest history includes drunken driving and battery against women other than his wife.

The rapper Coolio, accused in California of carrying a concealed handgun in his vehicle, has changed his legal tune again. Coolio, whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr., originally pleaded not guilty to the charge and then changed the plea to no-contest. On Tuesday, the rapper's lawyer



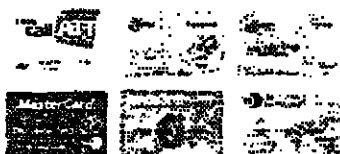
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